A SELECTION OF ONE-ACT PLAYS

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA 1955

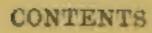
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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

A WELSH WAYSIDE COMEDY IN ONE ACT By J. O. Francis

CHARACTERS

TWM TINKER

DICKY BACH DWL

JENKINS THE KEEPER

THE BISHOP OF MID-WALES

SCENE. A roadside in rural Wales.

Time. About ten o'clock at night.

Weish Expressions in the Play

Twm = 'Tom.' Dicky Bach Dwl = 'Daft [little] Dicky.'

Fawch = "the deuce.' mawredd = 'goodness.' fach = "httle"

(as term of endearment). darro = 'dash it.' iechyd da, iachi
da = 'good health.' ach y fi, an expression of disgust.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Throughout the play the stage directions are to be taken from the view-point of an audience.

The foreground of the stage is a country road. At the back are trees in summer foliage. Between the trees and the road is a low grassy bank, which, half-way across the stage, is broken by a gap from which a pathway runs through the trees to the river near by. Moonlight is seen amidst the trees and in the further parts of the stage.

There is a wood-fire in the foreground. To the right and to
the left of the fire are boxes, both serving as seats. Near
by is a third box, used as a store-table. On it are plates,
knives, forks, a couple of tin drinking-mugs, packets of
condiments, and a hurricane lamp. On the ground, near
the fire, is another hurricane lamp; also a frying-pan
containing steak and onions. This part of the stage is
lit by the two lamps and the glow of the fire.

The rise of the curtain shows TWM TINKER seated upon the box to the right, eating his supper with a plate balanced on his knees. TWM is a middle-aged man, weather-beaten and poorly clad. From his doleful examination of his empty cup it is clear that his meal lacks drink. Putting down the cup with a sigh of resignation, he cleans his plate by wiping it round with a handful of grass from the bank and polishes it with some paper. Then, lighting his pipe, he settles down for an ofter-supper smoke.

DICKY BACH DWL begins to sing on the road to the left.

TWM. Hullo, Dicky!

DICKY [without]. Hullo, Twm!

TWM. Got the beer?

DICKY. Yes.

TWM. Then herry up, my boy, hurry up!

loaf of bread and a gallon jar. He is a young fellow dressed in ragged rustic clothing, with a battered soft hat set on his mop of unkempt hair. His facial expression shows a mind a little awry. There is, however, nothing unpleasant about him, but, rather, something pitiful and appealing.

bicky [sniffing the air]. Jawch, Twm, there's a grand smell on that steak and onions.

TWM. Your share is in the frying-pan. Hand over that jar, Dicky.

The jar to TWM, who pours out a mugful of ale and drinks with large appreciation. MCKY holds the frying-pan over the fire, enjoying the odour.

DICKY. A-a-h! H'm! Lovely! Have you set the night-lines, Twm?

TWM. Yes. [With a gesture towards the back of the stage] They're tied to that willow-tree at the bottom end o' the pool. [A dog whimpers on the road to the right.

DICKY [concerned]. There's the little bitch crying.

Jenkins the Keeper or Powell the Policeman should come along it's best they don't see the dog.

till, Floss fach. It will be safer for us. [The dog begins to bark happily, hearing his voice.] Quiet! [The dog stops at once.] Where's the donkey?

TWM. I tethered him down by the bridge. Give him a call to be sure he's there.

DICKY [calling on a special note]. Ned-dy 1

[The dankey brays a friendly reply from the right.

TWM. Hark at him—yes, answering you back like a Christian in a pair of trousers. The understanding you've got for animals—well, boy, it's beyond me quite.

pan to his plate]. Any, and I've got a pretty tidy understanding for a bit o' steak and onions, too.

TWM. Here-steady, my lad! Take half and leave balf.

DICKY [reluctant]. Leave?

TWM. Yes, just for safety. You know the character we've got for poaching. Well, if anybody dangerous comes along—[suiting the action to the word] then I pop the frying-pan over the fire—like this—and here we are, Twm Tinker and Dicky Bach Dwl, a proper picture o' two law-abiding tinkers eating their bit of honest supper.

it. They might.

[The rancous note of a cornerake is heard from the distance on the left.

TWM. The old cornerake there doesn't seem to think much of it either. Did you see Price when you fetched the beer?

DICKY. Yes. [Producing a note] Oh, he asked me to give you this!

I'm a solution of the lamps of the luncheon-party that Mr. Venerbey-Jones is giving to-morrow to the clergymen who are coming for the opening of the new schoolroom at St. David's Church." [With a fierce air of grievance] Venerbey-Jones? I wish that bunch of parsons would give him a lunch—and begin by pouring half a pint o' prussic acid down the old devil's throat!

but I'd pay it willing just to hold the bottle to his lips.

Twm [reading again]. "The party will be given here in this hotel, so please don't forget that I am relying on you for a salmon and will pay you tenpence a pound for it. Sincerely yours, Robert Price."

DICKY. Tenpence a pound? Jawch. Twm, there's money for you!

TWM [putting the letter in his pocket]. I'll keep this in case o' dispute. We promised him a salmon, Dicky, and a salmon he shall have. This pool o' Venerbey-Jones's has always got the pick o' the river. [Pointing away] Look, Dicky. There's banks o' cloud coming up. Good! We shall have a bit o' dark for the water. The wind's gone round sou'-west.

[There is a rustling in the trees.]

wind she is, Twm-a dark old wind. Come on, wind. Send up the clouds. That's right-up and up, to shut the

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

eves of the moon. Let's go to the river. Two I can't wait any longer.

TWM Yes. We'd better get ready Swaller down your vit'ls, Dicky.

DICKY [hostily polishing off his varper]. I in swaller ing. Two. I'm swallering. Have you get the things to make a torch?

TWM Yes I Lid them behind this bank [Producing the articles] Stick, rag, paramised [Producing a trident]. And here's my spear.

DUKY smallerdy tensel H St.1

The Londs forward listening

TWW. What is it?

DICKY. Footsteps.

TWM. Where?

Jonkins the Keeper.

sight. He hades the pouching implements.] Tell the little bitch to be still.

DICKY Big14 . He whistles a low warning note

TWM. Seens to me Dicky, you can smell a keeper or a policeman a mile off. Where's that blessed frying-pan? Al. ' [He picks up the trying-pan and sits down, holding it over the tire.] St down Dicky and put on a look as mild as milk.

Sitting peacefully by the fire, they compose their taces to an expression of seraphic cirtue

DICKY [whispering] Here he is

TWM [loudly], Yes, Dicky, you're quite right. Davies Tv Isl's ought to have offered more than suspence for more ding that bucket.

JENKINS The Francis in term the left. He is a stalwart middle-aged man dressed in clothes appropriate to his calling

TWM [with a start of pretended surprise]. Oh Je ku st the Keeper! Good execute Jenkans

DICKY Good evening Moster Jenkons

TWO genually | Taking a stroll after supper"

Mint are you doing here. Twin Tinker?

TWM Frying steak and emons

DINKINS Whose others I wonder !

TWM angrily] Whose on ons? My chiefs, Dicky's onions. Our onions!

JUNKINS [sureastically] Indeed!

TWM What discuss car Jenkows Whit me conhinting at?

JENKINS. I'm not be tog at anything. What I've get to say I'm going to say straight cut. I want to see you and this Dicky Bach Dwl off Mr. Vererbey-Jones's lind.

TWM Who s on Ve erbev-Jones's Lord?

picky. Asy, who's on it?

TWM Is this the public road, or is think "

Mr. Venerbey-Jones's game

TWM. That's as may be

Mr. Venerbey-Jones's fish

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

TWM. So you say.

JENRINS Tes or this estate, for fin and feather, everything s Mr Venerbev-Jeres's And don't you forget it.

TWM I know what this means Jerkins. That boss i years has been complaining that you layer't got en night pluck for your job.

JENKINS. What"

INM Oh, ves live ben 'So you're biginning to starthings up by persecuting two peaceful, bardworking tinkers,

**NKINS Yes a bright pain of beintles you are. The power den't know one tenth of the moschief you do sleep of or finithat cost like a lit of that og gips es.

Dicky for bid liver And you a Cilvinistic Methodist, too.

DESIGNS I to the world case you or get to be you young vagabond.

DICKY. No. No walls for me-never.

INCOME And its for you. I win Tanker your proper place is the county good and a good pleasure to me at wall be to get you there.

from hard for exerts years

TAKENS I'll have you cor of these days—the pair of you. And now before I go home. I want to see you off this estate.

Jenkins, and not a not set souter

DICKY. Not a moments Twm.

TWM If anybody hid better be moving, it's you, fenkous it rifear Eshould happen to let fly with this frying-pan.

JENKINS Well, renember I ve told you

twin Thank you for nothing Jonkes Good night and sweet repose to you.

JENKINS Trish rodaevs -pale!

[He goes away to the left.

2.5

DICKL [mulching JINKINS qo] If there's one thing on earth worse than a weisel it's a keeper

TWM We promised a silmon to Pace Jenkins or no Jenkins

withing mack through the wood. Come or, Twin. Let's chance it. I can't wait now. Don't you feel the old river drawing you have drawing and drawing. The moon's going, Twin.

out again.

[He produces the peach natachle. The moonlight begins to take into darkness as the clouds cover the sky.

block meeting to and the excitedly and laughing with delight. Ha, ha, ha! So long, old Man in the Moon, trood by: you little white stars. And if you should happen to be peeping. I hope you won't see anything short of a syteen-pounder. Ha, ha! Ho ho!

TWM [giving the things to DICKY] Here you are stick, rag, parafhn-oil. Make yourself a terch

[INM practises a few movements with his spear, while picks improvises a torch by wrapping the ray round the end of the stick

DICKY pouring oil over the ray! Now the paraffin

TWM. Got matches?

DICKY rattling a match line Yes plenty

TWM. Good

blekt Ha, La, La' Spear and torch obce again any too is the tane when I'm happy Happy? Darro, Twur-I can't ted you. It's sit's oh, it's like as if there's a lot to little birds all singing inside me. [Pancing a few steps] I cut't keep still sno, not I [Suddenly downcast]. But I win that talk o' me being put in the workhouse—it comes over me something dreadfal on times. If I was in the workhouse. Twin and somebody was to come to me on a agost like this and whoper the word salmens 's-only just whisper it of, mawredd, Twin, I think I d be down and die broken-hearted!

TWO Well my lad, let's hope we're beither of its in any helpe to normw's breakfist. Mornin lower by the back of the stage | Come along

oneky [turning to the right]. Wait. There's somebody else coming now.

peace to get on with his business' [Once again he pids the proching tackle into hiding]. Where's that frying-pan's He resumes has former position at the fire.] Who is it this time, Dicky?

steinger. [He pers into the darkness] And, there he is. Jaweh, Twm, it's a curate!

TWM. Curate?

DICKY Asy, with a tep-hat and leggings on him

TWM Curate? At this time o' night? Any danger, I wonder? Sit diwn, Dicky, and try to look as if it was Sunday

They again assume the role of blameless tockers cooking suppor by the roadside. To meet the special occasion two begins to hum a Welsh lemmeture with which he is but lossely acquainted picks point in.

The basilion of minewalls comes in from the right currying a suct-case and trudging wearily. He is dressed in expressional after his gailers being storaed with dust. He is a beingn, white-harred of gentleman it a very triendly disposition for a moment he pauses blanking through mot over his glasses in the manner of a very short-sighted person.

adsiron What's this! Mr. yes, think leaves admitted it last! Good evening friends

twit non-conciletator Good evening tooks fouch up his toronal Good evening, sa-

the vicarage?

IWM You morate Mr. Ower, Matthews's place"

misnor. No Mr Lewis Pugh's

TWM. Pugli? But that's in the next valley.

BISHOP [horested] What?

DICKY. Yes, sir-four nules away

BISHOT Four noles? Oh dear, dear, dear! I care! do it.

ptekt Lost vent was jed bave sir

and I we been winder (g) about the over two lones. Mopping his brow. I in quite wern out.

TWM [putting down the reging-pair assured that the obstone is harmless. But duly transbody meet you at the station?

Producing a letter. But I we just found that I we had the letter in my pocket all this time.

The Bisnow's said playlet and his obvious good-nature began to usu over 1880 and DUSS

DICKY Twin, praips the gentler in would like to sit down?

HISTON Thank you very much. I feel rather faint nicky offernog have. There you are, sir. Rest your poor feet. [The insuor value of the a relation state of sufficient to are a late of the order. I not? Yes, a pleasant aroma.

DICKY It's tree fryingspare sire steek and organs mission 'in a spasm of desire. Steak and slad you say at the hid or sons? [Sighing Lagragity] Oh, dent'

suddenly magnationers | Dicky, he must have what's left of the steak and onions.

nisace [in polite lost fields demurral] No, really—er

TWM That's all right sir We've had our supper Dicky, pass that plate.

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Contents of the frying-pan.

plate to the Listopy there you are, sir. Now, a churk a bread.

the test of the fact shed that is I may an enter the fact is I may also fact shed the fact is I may be the fact shed that the fact of the

nist of [with an induspatory smile]. Beer?

abstinence]. Er-Dicky-

x treky That sall right Twin Church the gentleman is, not chapel [He pours out a mugful of ale,

tashor Precisely! The older institution, the more eitholic nathook, the more tolerant philosophy. [Taking the name to make the Dally.] Thank you may boy. Well, iechyd da!

TWM AND DICKY. Inchi da, sir

Instrop (growing expansive) Ali-h'm excellent!
Yes nost refreshing And now-may I ask your nomes,
my good friends?

TWM Twn fi ker I m known as

DICKY And Dicky Bach Dwl they're calling me

native gesture towards his head] Er. yes—quite so! Well. I shan't forget this little roadside party

TWM I wouldn't boast of it mister if I was you.

pieks No You see or we've got a had nation somehow.

DICKY. Yes, for poaching.

gentleman's face there's a kind heart in him.

TAM Praps I ought to say one thing to you sir, as man to man it wish t do you any good as a parson to be seen sitting lave, chatting with me and Daky

BISHOP But I enjoy satter gabere, chatting with you and Dieky.

DICKY Surprised, Logis at sur!

візнов Yes I maist explain that I've just come straight from a conference at Llandrindod

TREE What do they do at a conflictice, say!

BISHOP with all my resilientance. Make spece es not box-and usually long cases! Admirable people, of course irrepreasuable people people for whom I have the highest respect. But the after four whole days with the saints, it's quite a pleasant change to sit down and talk to a couple of supports. [Locking around] After the crewded conference it's rather strange to me to be here, ast three of us alone.

DICKY. Me e. sit. Oh, iso. We aim t alone

BISHOP peering here and there]. Not alone? But -

DICKY All round us sir they're watching

BISHOP. Watching?

DICKY. Any, eyes in the dark

BISHOT Eves a the dark? Dear no !

DIOCI. There's rubints by the score

BISHOP beginning to area interested | Yes of course the rabbits

PREST [auto a shout] Hyp' Brrr' Hep t, rabbits! [With his lee, charlling laugh] Now, it's tails up sir, and

they reads scurrying on, as nother Day or Judgmes to had come on emosudden. I not banks in the distinction the left

BISHOP. There's a dog

DIUKY. Dog? That's a fox.

BISHOP. Really? A fox?

and thanking land be spect a somebody's charkers

before [Kindling] This is a nearety pleasant as it's quite exciting.

The exercise theorem is before.

Very often when be begins there's no hape of stopping lum-

misnor. It remaids me of Llandra dod

DICKY On that slope there'll be a couple of hedgehogs nosing about for sure and here in this field o' corn there's the little squeaky fellows.

BISHOP. And who are the little squerky fellows?

nibbling, nibbling. Asy, I we got a great feeling for them. I ttle squaky fellers. I'm a bit of a nibbler nyself.

[An owl hoots near by.

rishor. I know what that is an owl

DICKY. Yes. [Calling loadly and elapping his hands] Lock out, all you little fellers. There's owls after you. I like to warn 'em, sir

BISHOP Quite right my boy (Concerned and clapping his hands also) Look out there

than Jeakins the Keeper and Powell the Policeman

arg eyes. The thought of them stirs me-yes, most strangely.

picks [caper and pynes]. He, ha has been feel it too? It site way of the night, sir. It siths wind and the dark getting hold of you.

ge ting hell of me, that's certain.

DICKY Ha, fit Watt vou, sir just wait

twm Curate or not, mister, take onre how you laten to Doky Bich Dwl. There's times when he'd in the night got perchars out of the Twelve Apostles themselves.

THERE Are you foul of a lot o' speat, se"

up at Oxford.

not, n is now in itself, a fasemat in He is a fine or with an expression with a law to the voice in low and seductive.

proces limps sould like a bit of sport in the river to-night?

TWM of de abermorshill Dicky Dicky!

picks. But Two, don't you understand? He shalf the of us already. In tensor. I'll pist whisp r. [Into the pish 4's car] Two and me are going after a salmen.

BISHOP. A salmon?

DICKY Yes, there in Venerbey Johns's pool Producing the spear and the trick] Here are the the is [Ottering the spear to the BISHEP Now you take the spear

нізнов. Виt, ту boy---

no st It's ome preferding. Take to -1898 B.T.

List or [the old Idano nature, in home, as he grasps that spear]. What do I do with it?

DEEKT Suppose we regard the the water

alsnor this arress regelier. Inght . ? Dear me?

DEAT There's only the tor han the directors and the by high shadders all papping about. And you're want gone this—Lish' as quet as a store. And then others the salmon.

BISHOP. Yes, the salmon.

picture his nose coming up towards the light?

blatch Has nesc -ves! And then!

netenant] slow and cricial like this

Wella Wella

onex (dripping his rece, Ap he comes ener, oner then you can see his back. It sall sharp is the water Ard very take your annount behand his head [Mand] New! 'Hath a could strike Swish Down comes the spear.

TISHOP again modal tog Swish!

the same and the distrature movement of the same that the back

So!

the kings of the world. You live the along?

iosnop Io Well, realis perhaps I -

DICKY Yes, you must come, if it's call to watch us

nent Some the street of the server the server of the serve

and Lhadrindod!

of the form of all people.

this level to say kides I was If you was come after a salm see we proper your find of a feed of trout?

they have the proceed the trackfast to the wholes to the Wholes of the Theorem the trackfast to the second the trackfast to the trackfast to the trackfast to the trackfast trackfast to the trackfast trackfa

ISM Addiction I have though a corner, beamblished difficult feet

him with the wire of tools we are a long backy. I have him—yes, very much.

ore a those right. There's talk at putting hand of the workhouse. [Head) — and a masy. Once use sure, there all be stold you, you know though a wife with a pelice on our track.

to do that he people who have all surprise you

been much to briging a per tret

Beauties they are, sir tresh if the book. For you, sir Take 'em.

BISHOP Im afraid thet're stolen goods, Dicky,

DICKY Year want take em, sr?

BISHOP Id -I'd -er better rot

Twit Do, two understand, Dicky? The gentle on as to the Church. Hand me to to fish Doky. I will a good use for 'em.

(He takes the trut vil juts them in his pecket

DICKY I'm use offering 'em, or 1 th aglo props you wouldn't be so ring us on a writingfall flucte you are, sir, of course?

BISHUP. Well, I was once.

give you the chuck-out?

вівнов. Not exactly, Dicky.

TWM. A vicar now, maybe?

BIRHOP. I've been a vicar, too.

DICKY Well, what are y u now, sir '

BISHOP. At present I'm a bishop

T M AND BREKY [Stigner 3] Flot What?

picky. A bishop?

TWM. Well, I'll be d-

pisnop hast by a Him or we I to the Bishop of Mid-Wales.

Take But a bish promegowed ring about the roads like a sire cut. Why done you go to Mr. Venerbey Jones's sur! He's the big man in these parts.

BisHop Vererbey-Jones? I don't like him a min of

1:11) 1763

wrath. No I'm going on to Mr. Lewis Pugh's place. I thank you for all your kindress.

TWM Oh, that's nothing! The road you want is the second after crossing the bridge down there

you both.

BISHOP Thank you Well, my friends good night to

TRM AND DICKY Good wight sir

The bishor, currying his bog, begins to more away tokk. And mind you den't fall into the river six bishop. If there is a river about, I shan't be surprised to find myself in it. Good night to you. Good night twill and dicky. Good night.

The BISHOP gers off on the right

eters. Mawredd Twp, we've get sen to g to tell 'em in the blacksmall slop to increow! What do they say for a bishop Twn? Year Worship?

TAM Even an ordinary mayor gets that much

DEFY I know what to call him

TWM. What?

DICKY. His Holy Highness.

TWM Very right and preper it sounds, too

Dicky [ragerly] And now, Twm, what about that salmon?

TWM [taking up the specie and the torch and giving the latter to DERY]. Yes. Here's your torch. [Looking to the right.] What's that noise?

DICKY. Only his Holy Hightess. He frightened the donkey.

Now, Dicky.

no Ki [in great deligit] He, is lat Spear and torch and the river ofce again. Reprinced to cut capers] Hi, bat the darro, I was I nel I want to go there dancing

[They q) of through the trees it the back Dick?

laughing to himself. There is a short paus:

JENKINS THE KAPPER CORES IN IT on the left, moving atealthily.

Hest' Stay there, all bur of year Dord show yourselver fill I blow my whistle.

A voice with at in a alooper.] Reco. Jonk as

RNANS advancing and a torp the the period for fire.]

All lecturing to tall to his impaners. Province to touch become and with tish or give, you an he sare. Subdeal, cracking and toking to the right.] Hish. Who sether on the mad? He says to secretary characters of Two Tokers poseding para. It is a doubt. I'll toke.

this fellow myself. Got to your places

[There is a brut mariour rath out then silence at NKINS leading to moves rand in the shadows to a pesition of a which he can prove man the newcomer.

Atmosphing do to based up with his wig and dalenters to atter to makes a stry specialist His elother are not his collar is imposed stained, he had is given Ho has taken if his cont ord is carrying it on his arm. He has also removed his gaiters and a total ches of under-pants are to be seen above. Les of fashioned grey socks.

* Bishop multering as he copies in . Dear, dear, dear! { [I ad] Excuse me [I himself] Gone!

TENKINS [springing upon him] I ve get you, you rascal!

Strupping Let go' How dare you?

JENKINS Let g , indeed! [Tahlening his grip] Not of your sort son threving scoundred!

Property Schemes They I've never heard such a-

JENKINS | Keep st L, I tell you

BISHOP I will not keep still

BISION and I'll make you [Striking him] Now!
BISION and I'll have blow! Heavens above—a blow!
The number numself tree, and faces sexies with fists
raised in good being style.] Don't think I can't defend
mysest. I so not die I of any volage hooligan not I!

BISHOP beating him off] Ah' You would, would ver? I reharming thous not without credit, Take that, you blackguid ves and that Don't thous you can fighter me just because I'm a clergyman.

sensing the a stant of surprise. What's Draw-

By stop Yes charge nor Can't you see? No, per-Laps you can't. I fell into the river. But here dock at my collar.

JENKINS Yes your colar your way of speaking,

fash in? What's voir name?

JENEUS Jeneurs I at brid keeper to Mr. Venerbey. Jones.

Bisnor snorther, O - him?

bittle susper out] But what are you do up in such a state—
BISHOP [sharply]. State?

JENKINS And at this time of night too?

no bus use of yours my torn

I m sorry for Lyng by is on y n, so

you gave, I think.

JENKINS. Good night, sir.

Estion (curtly Good night

[The most v states the water from his coat and puts it on. He sets his quiters by the fire to dry. Opening his bag, he takes out his nightshirt, which is soaking wet, wrings it, and spreads it up n one if the boxes by the fire. As he begins to recover from his ducking and from the exertion of his fixtuitis his mattre cheerfulness comes back to him. I brieze sters the leating. He listens with a sinde of pleasure. An out hoots near by

you little fellows! [Smiling and nonmining to himself]
Poor Theky! Where are— [Turning towards the trees]
Yes I suppose so—the river [Recalling the allurement of Ducky's tack, he sters uneasily] How does it —— [He raises his hand and brings it down in the movement of spearing]

bwish! [A maile flits over I is face and he sighs—enviously] Ab, well! [He gets up and paces to and tro, fighting down the subcersive appeal.] I! N., no, no—NO! [His pace markens, and he pauses to per through the trees.] Still, just to ward—— [With another n. rement.] Swist."

The cornerale socials its note

Starting releatly No certainly it not for a moment! He falls to pring to and tra again.

salm n TWM has the spear and the Bisnop's hat which he has received from the river. For a moment the new emers do not see the Bisnop, whose march of so vergest his carral him into a patch of shall we pack reaches a position near the fire beter the Biston is aware of their return.

Bestion [lelighted] Ab -inv lat"

DICKY [frightened]. Oh!

(He drops the salm at near the fire

TWM promptly getter a rot of the spear? Parce!

DUKY [relocal] It's only his Hely Highness

nish to I meserry to trouble you seem, but I walked into the water [Noticing the sulm n] What's this, Dicky? Still more fish?

bad an offer of [Starting in alorm?] Twin!

TWM. Well?

PICKY Over there-it's Jenk in the Keeper

TWM. Jenkins?

BISHOP [annoyed]. That fellow again?

the Policeman. It's Powel.'

A SELECTION OF ONE-ACT I LAYS

rounded. Somebod, beland us too Dicky-we're sar-

DICKY I I book up the salmen

TWM of pping him. No Praps they haven't seen it vet.

DICKY. What shall we do?

TWM. I don't know

DICKY. They re moving. Yes, there's leaking

BISHOP. I detest that man.

TYM Blazes, D'Ax here's no pocket fall o' trout? misnor. T-t-t!

TWM Yes, and Trace's letter on the semewhere

Docks That so thems it on us

away It's good for me boy workt-ouse for you

Can't you help us?

вівнов. 12

DON'T On, or, tan wal a ile trand !

against you is this fish?

DICKY. Yes,

similar going to the new near the fish. If cultive similar with your hard. I've similar also using heart so I may as well see that though

TWO What are you giving to do?

nisone Suppress the avidence. New [Suting his of the to his words, If I sit down and take the night-lift -so, picky. Well?

BISHOP. I can hold it to the fire so

DICKY. Well?

BISHOP. And drop it on to the fish-so

TWM. And then?

Twn [popfully]. Dicky!

sis tor. And I put the lot in my big so

He licks salmon and nightshirt in his bag.

DUAY Sar in his bar well, I'll be blowed."

ets, a Na hooper would dire to search a list-op-

Br. we a true to Mr. Lewis Tugt's place with pleasure.
With the same seconds of the Mr. Lewis Tugt's place with pleasure.

LAMB SHOTE TO BE TO THE YEAR T

Twm Tinker?

AM I the month of a long The river?

doing?

First I adopt not transcors but as an answer cores. February trasportion in a lat

(NKINS Hat? To the fashion Did viu backour late) idsitors. I certified did has not but

Nature 1 that the tends of the method for an enter of the first of the personal theory of the first of the personal theory of the lot of your little tend. We of take charge of the lot of your

He mass Lis whistle to his lips

which it you be with a whistle you'll regret it which is like to know?

DICKY son rooty His Holy Highwas the Bishep of Mid-Wales.

WENKINS [taken al gel . Bishop?

have in my pockets. Preducing envelopes. Look at these. They're addressed to me.

History (reading) The Right Rivined the Land History of Mid-Wales."

DI KY (and Mauridd Twee Frd !

bishop?

plever It fact, one of tress letters are invitation from him to a luncheon to-morrow.

Dicky What" Ha ba, ha! Twm, it's the Costle Hetel From what I hear said, they're buying a grand big school for that party [To Twm, aside, leaking towards the baq] Twm, ha, ha ha! The salmon!

s dang Diesy Significantly] Take charge of my hig will you?

picky Take charge? [Gleefully seizing the bag] On, yes, I'll take charge of the bag!

rww 'picking up the lamps]. Our things will be safe emightful we come tack Dicky. Now, my lord, we'll have the donker hirmess dop in half a jiffy and then, my lord, we'll do ve yn over to Mr. Lewis Pugh's, my lord.

menor Teank ven. Twm [coldly] Good night. keeper.

Good night.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

TWM Good at the least And, in the way of kindness let me tell you this voulte one of those that's up and doing a battoo sorn. He no ves off to the right

BISHOP f llowing TWM'. Yes, too soon, may good man - too soon! The cornerate is to rel on a redent note.

my good bird-too late!

TWM, the bish P and DERY go act in the right.

THE CUBTAIN PALES



BROTHER WOLF

By LAUBENCE HOUSMAN

CHARACTERS

Lupo, the robber chief.

GIUSEPPE,
BARTOL,
CECCO,
BASTIANO,
FRANCIS
JI NIELE

Approximate pronuncations Loopo, Iweeséppy, Bart oil Chécko, Bastiáhno.

BROTHER WOLF

Seene - 1 rocky depte, glormy and precipit as High up in the crevices of the rock grow jumper bushes and pines over the ground, which is the peoply bed of a dried torrent, hirge bruiders he stream. To the right is a deep fissure, or cave, from which trickles a small stream of water. Behind the bushes above, one sees the back of a sheep and a horned head which turns to lock, as alweeper, hot and out of breath, comes stumbling up the gully from below. He halts, looks right and left, then puts his hands to his mouth and makes the wolf's ory.

GIUSEPPF Wow! Wow!... Wow! Wow!

BARTOL [from above]. B-a-a!

GIUSEPPE Hullo, Bartol, where are the rest?

BARTOL Anywhere, for all I know Here am I GIUSEPPF I've news for them

[He sits down, pulls a melon from his pouch and , starts slicing it.]

BARTOL still accorning his sheep-skin, straddles the rock] Eh? Where does that come from?

GIUSEPPE Down yonder Assist market Here' Catch! [He throws him a half-melon, which BARTOL begins cating.]

BARTOL News, ch? Well, what is it?

GIUSFEPE Ore telling's enough Call Lupo bid him be quick.

Wow! Wow! Wow!

NOTE in the distance, Character Won! Won!

CHESTELL begans to and and her place has place that are madely affects to leather or steel moved a the there are a tear gragans substituted to make ramity.]

of SEPPE O Lord' what fools there are notic wight! I could have take a double had I wanted

now down vinder swa non- through the gate like most

[He points forward.]

preaching firm among their When he begin they'd no eves for anything. Sintid to e well a might'

axieror. What? That Lovers Ho is they call han?

oft street. I dare say. Hungiy-looka g. all eyes, and a mouth. I ght! Mean made you should have I sad let ! voice [now nearer]. Wow!

nvictor Basa' Cecco' fell Messer Lupe Cs Gruseppe back again.

[Enter cecco and Bastisno.]

BASTIANO. Any luck? Oh!

CRISIPPE Where safe Wolf ' Quick I want him'

Tuter time a time tiques of a man, with a touch of the sacine dandy about him. He wears chained coins and earrings. He stands and looks out over Assisi.]

rteco. Lo behr d ven brother

on you!

wolf and run! There's a holy mon after you

LUPO. Heh? What's he?

on spppe. Mad! That's all I know

BYGGOL. It's the Lovezedo, padrone

[Spreading them on a slab of reck, the robbers settle down to divole outserre's pickings among them.]

11 to Does his madness bring him here?

Lupo. That both he sworn, with the whole city to witness. And as he so spike Perco di Dio you should have hourd them!

and have done with it! Make shorter tongue,

on sters. The thus, Messer Lupo. He is coming with holy water, and terror will be on you! First le strikes you blind, then deaf, then dumb, then silly. Then when he hath hold of you by all your serses, he'll pick you to pieces, jut you in a bag, salt you down, carry you back to Assist, ring the bells. "To-night ring the bells!" to said. Then they it call a feast. Then they it eat you

tero. You dirty that, you have been druking?

GICSEPPE. Derty theef am I? Yes, I have been draking -with my ears too else you wouldn't be learing of it. It's the talk of the tayers I'm telling you, and it's the truth. So now, old Wow wow, you know what your e'd's going to be!

1) Po [threateningly] Get! Stand up! Ha Js away!
[6] Start puts up his hands fright sobers him]
New then! Clear sour tongue! Out with it!

on steps [standaring] 'Tis is I said, Messer Lupo' and as I heard a Afterwards the Poverello himself was there speaking in the market. And he said. [He paires]

LUPO. Aye, said ; said what?

gere from me. He talked such moon indices, twas more than a same in in could naderstand. Twas all. Brother Wolf, and 'Twas all Brother Wolf,' and 'Thyou try to eat him he says. 'he tries to eat you. But well have him he says, 'so that he can harm nobody. And there was the crowd all laughing and crying round him, like a pack of focls. So he said if he brought you back to Assis, safe and bound would they give you to him to do with as he wished. And they all said "Aye!". And he said, "Let me have his life, and you shall have peace!". So they agreed. And the stops! that was all, Messer Lupo. For I'd got my sick toll by then, and 'twas better I came away.

repo Ave, so? "Safe and bound." have us life will they?

theo And will have more! Ah, you blind bats!

Shaking his fist towards assist] Wait, wait, till my whelps
be grown! Up, Bartol to your post!

[worrow resumes his sheep shin and returns to his perch.]

au serry They have a great fear of you, Messer Lupo Lupo, They do well.

and in company.

LUPO It shall not save them

CECCO No, nor their flocks, either

of all the sheep and goats we have taken. For every one that is true they tell of ten. So now, with so many missing, they say there be fifty of us!

dogs! When I have gathered a v pack I will make you yelp!

others Where are the rest. Messer Lupn's Where are the rest of us?

You are but the first.

ALL. Wow! Wow!

14 Po. Then, then we will taste blood!

ALL. Wow! Wow!

ttro. And go forth with sword and fire?

ALL. Wow! Wow!

13 Po And lo, Assis , red a vod a d roofless, glaring into the dark!

WI Assisi, Assisi 1 Down with Assisi Work Work

stored me, you east me out. So, like a beast y a hunted me! I sought justice it was dored. You mocked me, you would not hear.

ALL. Ow-w-w! Wow! Wow!

[LI PO draies his dagger for pantomine]

betrayer and with sharp teeth I bit my way through the midst of them. "Wolf! Welf!" They were up, they were after me!

ALL Won' Wow' Won' Won'

Wolf! Wolf! they cried, but too late. I was cut, I was free

ALL. Wow! Wow!

Lipo Then you can't, brothers for you, also, they had wrenged. And together we have taught their fear't (ry, ery! Let them hear the year of the wolf!

ALL. Wow! Wow!

LUPO. Dogs!

BARTOL, Ban-n!

At this cry of warning from above 11 to ques to look.]

TUPO Back? Take cover, all of year

[The robbers disappear to be and crees enter the care cates dispers enters under a processor.

BASTIANO behind a large boulder particle keeps cover under his sheep skin. Enter picancis, followed by a since enter particle.

JUNIPER Not so fist, Father France! Oh for its love of God, not so fast!

FRANCIS Are you wears, Brother?

ill place we be come to.

FRANCIS. Wherefor?

JUNIERI. Eh! dark, I mean.

FRANCIS Farther on it will be darker

UNITED Ave, and rough stones. Father to stumble over and loles to fill it to and threats to get drowned in and caves—"He turns and sees brancis appreaching the intrance of the care] (Oh for the love of God don't go there, Father! There's semebody in it!

not, why should we?

UNIPOL The books of a coming out as fast as she can

thursty she runs to meet us [He stoops to drink]

bet there's bood in 4. I shouldn't wender, Father, for above 3 O Lord, what a that?

than and wall refresh you. Farther on we may find none at signific. Are we to go firther, I other? Why are we to go farther?

FRANCIS To find brotter Welf

DESIPE The Lord preserve us from hor! What's it this big, Father?

FIXELS For I distaper and were and runnent

He sets it upon a rick on the foreground. ALPO, tall well by CECCO, a mest and stands in the entrance of the care. The other rebbers take their heads caute asty to listen.]

review. What will the log robber want with that Pather?

TRANCIS For his bod at is all that he can want

it signing. I think to at, bather. What he wants is blood, and terror, foul hist and exactly. He puts men in bonds, bather, he draws out their isoles, he pulls out their teeth. Te cuts off their ears, he tears out their bears? Oh!

FRANCIS So will I do to I in Buther Junipen. Thou, Father!

Brother Wolf in bonds. Yet I will draw out his inside, and has teeth shall not harm me. I will have him by the nose and the ears, and I will pull out his heart.

[At this, from 1000 and his rolber band, there is much grinding of teeth. They begin to else on on Francis who, taking the sack from Hairer, has begun to sort out its contents. They sit down on a rock to rest.

DISIPER Well. Father, if it be God's will we shall be hanged for it!

FRANCIS Then shalt see a wolf changed cuto a limb. Juniper.

влятов. Вая-а!

PUNITER There's a wise sleep Father. He answers
you!

(FIGNOIS displays brend, meat and ac setting them on the rock before him]

Stall it not reporce his eyes when he behelds it?

[ITPO'S eyes de not respond to the invitation]

of honest nen he can get all that and more

FRANCIS Brother Welf is no fool, Jumper Think you that it doth not greeve late to rob men? For why should you seek to rob others, if you yourself be not in need?

PRANCIS And dost thou think there is any man in the world more foolish than then art? Brother Wolf hath eves like you and me doth he not prefer light to darkness? He

hath ears doth he not prefer greetings to reproaches? He hath a heart, Brother shall be not prefer kindness to misery? If he had food enough of his own, would be filen it from thee?

JUNIPER I know not, Father

FRANCIS. Why, no? For if thou art a robber, men fear thee, and seek not thy company therefore, thou art lonely. Also, when they bunt thee, thou must run and hide therefore, then art homeless. And being homeless thou hast no family, nor friends to whom thou canst do service. And if thou have none of these of what use to thee is the wealth thou takest from others?

JENIPER I have none of these Father but so ther have I wealth

past clarity. All that then hast thou givest. Therefore give charity to Brother Wolf, and take pity on him, seeing that he is very sorry for homself.

[At this point the grinding of 11 post with becomes almost audible. His followers too mentally discent to follow the argument take their one from him, and do likewise.]

PRANCIS. No. Brother.

JUNIPER May I say truly as I have a midd?

FRANCIS I con hand you, my sen

there's no curing you I've prayed Father often I've prayed the Lord to give you luck your serses. But he

hasn't done it. He's only taken name too. So here's the pair of us, with not enough so se left to catch a flea-le' above a robber. And if I wasn't so and Tather I'd that keep were in danger now. For I've a feeling that I've only got to turn my head and I should see something.

FRANCIS Brother Jumper. I will tell thee a story JUNIPER. Yes, Father?

FRANCIS. A young hawk fell from its nest, so burt that it could not fly. When I took it to land, it pecked and drew blood. But I did not kill it, it was helpless, so I brought it home with me. And its beak was very sharp.

round you, Father.

IRANCIS. Then I made it a rest and brought food for it. It are mice, brother, and meat, and dead vermin, and when it could get nothing else it are nie. But though it liked the taste of me, it had no love for me. So when its wing was healed and it could fly, forthwith it departed

JUNIPER A hawk is a vile bird. Father

made hawks He was rot making men. So, when He made walves, it was not men either, and raver shad a wolf become a man. How, ther can a nan become a wolf?

JUNIOR But the lawk did ill Father for their hidst saved his life.

against H.m. Now when He by love, showeth us how we be helpless. He showeth us also the helplessness of others.

And since I loved Brother Hawk, that tore my flest from me, shall I not also love Brother Wolf?

This is all opether beyond the comprehension of LCPO and his companious but at least they can put the matter to the test. To that end 1120 quest a signal and the robbers, cord in hand, draw close to their intended rutims while EBANCIS continues to instruct Brother it siper.

Ave, though he should put bonds on me and draw out my teeth and my inside-

"M NIPER catches sight of the robusts that are about to fall on Francis.]

JUNIPER. O Father! Father!

FRANCIS and cut off my ears and tergue and tear

1 to signal from 11 to the redors fall on them and bind them at sites struggles instance tirely, but authorit desperation teasors accepts the interruption as a step up is the road.]

FRANCIS Is that you Brother West?

ITED Ave? We teeth me on the most Frage Safe

There has begut well Brother Tarry awhile See now, Jumper here both Brother Wolf got his teeth in me in thee also. And by the look of him he is going to tear us to pieces. Yet shall we still leve him And by nothing that he may do can be prevent it.

typo [drawing his limited]. Not at I slav thee! How then?

HARRER O Fither, say a prayer for me!

[But JUNIDER's captors cuff him to silence]

well stands not on his hind logs is thou dost

LUPO. Peace, thou fool!

FRANCIS God give they peace also, Brother's

I I PO [to SUNIPER] Then fellow, is this man mad?

IN NIPER Ave Brother! He is more mid than I am Por I have it only by fits, but he always

Their bast a kind face, Brother Pell me thy true name.

This affront to his face makes () to more murder outly inclined than ever.]

strike [cheerfully encouraged by the example of transcis] Bite han! Bite him, Brother Wolf! He will like thee the better for it!

TUPO Cease, babbler! Or I cut out thy termie

And the more thou hast of at, the better shall it pay thee?

itro. These be not sune men!

HARTER with converten] We are not Brother'

There is not much nest or my bones but my heart thoughalt find tender.

Creco Messer Lupo, these men make mock of thee 1 tro So be? Patience and we will hear them Siriah, whence come you?

tracers. From down to der from Asses

10Po. Wherefor?

FRANCIS To find thee Brother,

LUPO. To what end?

BROTHER WOLF

TRANCIS To s tecour thee for thou art in misery it no [restraining himself] - Go on, Friar

here is food and raiment.

them.

Brother, the soul, the soul is in popular!

TUEO And the life ! [He ruses los knite]

tiexees Brother Will thou art a feul liver. Thou bast done great wickedness.

[10 Po lowers los kurte in astonishment]

Shome on thre, Brother, shame on thre!

Checo Master, shall this man live?

LUPO. Peace, Cecco!

thou hast rollbed, then hast burned, thou hast wasted, and the riches which God give thee, thou hast wasted, and

LUPO Which God gave me, Fran?

eves, also and a brun? Hadst then not compassion and londness and understand ag? Was not the strength given thee for the service of men? And In now, in thy heart is latted, and in these eves bludness and fire burns in thy brun, and blood is upon thy hards. Shall I not weep, therefore, for the masery wherein I find thee?

tieo. Thou art a brave Friar! Dost thou not fear death?

FRANCIS. For thee, Brother, greatly I fear it. Lo, the Lit. and in the Pit the flame leapeth, and in the flame the

soul of him that I love perisheth. For, lo, the 1st opens and wherever thou goest the flame rutheth after thee.

[It PO and the robbers start back horrified]. Now it is under the feet, now it eatelies thee by the hards, now by the throat, now by the heart!

Romans. Messer Lupo, this man is a holy terror Save us, save us!

FIGNEIS And Io, and Io, and Io?

There comes a deep rumbling, a great fall of rock and shale slides down the mountain. The mouth of the pass is filled with rubble and torn trees.]

ROBBERS Oh! Oh! Oh! The mountain is falling on us!

They run hither and thither and cover in hidingplaces seniors, bound hand and foot, per ferms a sack-race dance across obstacles and kneels before enemes, very shaken and trembling.]

arms round me, or I shall go through!

FRANCIS This only Brother Mountain shaking himself.

Do not be afraid!

JUNIFER I'd wish it were only some one else then, Father Al. There' He's at it again.

[There comes another landslide The robbits hould despairingly, and run 1800 stays fixed, bult raised from the ground to which he has fallen. He stares at exercise, to whom strained chaque with his bound ham's.]

FRANCIS. It is over, Juniper.

UNITER All' Then let us be quick away, Father, ere they be back on us. Look! If I undo thy bonds, then caust thou undo mine.

Figure 18 Why should we man away Jumper" Brother Wolf needs us

JUNIPER Sure and true! Looks as if all his teeth had dropped out, Father!

'F r senious has read signs that do much to reassure him - 11 vo comes ferward and cuts their bonds.]

not fit to die.

FRANCIS I did not corse thee, Brother

TUPO At ' Did not the Pit open."

FitANCIS It was a attle fall of earth, Brother Mother barth opened her hand but she was kaid and hath Furt nobody.

(120 Ave. but why care it then?

there for I would speak with them

13 PO Trev are gone I am slore?

FRANCIS. Not alone, Brother.

13 Po Thou man of wonder! Who art thou?

TRANCIS I am the bittle fool of Assist, the Poverella bast thou not heard tell of bun? Men laugh when they speak of me.

LUPO. From Assist art thou?

HUNCIS She was not nother. I was been there

place of justice she denied the and she cast me cat! In the

the she cursed me, she hated me, she sought me that she that say me. And now, shall I let vengeance go?

Be thou kind to her! Brother, and do this

[He stretches out his arms in the form of the cross]

100 Io kind! [4 dull ammement serzes him]

FRANCIS O Brother, stand by my side, and look upor
this city! Is she not fair?

[11 Po looks there is still hatred in his eyes, his hand rests on the handle of his dagger]

See for face, how it turns to thee in the light of the sin! Behold her towers like watchmen upon the walls, and her roofs like wings to cover her, and her windows like eyes. She hith cars also, and hands, and feet, brother, and therewithal she hath a heart. And in her heart standeth the fear of thee. Down below are streets, and doors, and a market-place, and homes both for rich and poor. And these he full of the music of men's voices and the laughter of children, of terms also, and cries of somow and anger. But it is not seriow or anger which giveth heauty to her face, or strength unto her towers. And the fear of three that in in her heart bringeth no happiness.

come, brother, let thy heart go down with me into vender city. Here is a house where a mother suckles her bake, and the child knoweth her, though he understandeth not. Here is a house where a young man bringeth his bride. He closeth the door he turneth, he kisseth her. Sweet is the taste of love upon their lips. Here is a house where a man hes dvirg, he hath been strong, but now he is feeble.

BROTHER WOLF

the week Mony things did he exist is sody. Brothe, then to did ill, sometimes be did with. Now a math death, and he understandeth not were the good that I'm did comforteth him.

that, his hand dr ps trem his differ]

within his light therefore he is not solders.

Ah. Brother, what is this that more hothy heart, so that it hogeth. Lasten, I will tell the A man stood mee and acked upon a cate grove isle had she so had. And by his side stool the angel of tool that was come to deslrey it makes said to the angel. If there is found in this city fifty righteous, will thou not spare it for fitty a sike? And he abswered. I will spare it for fifty. Then he said. If there has fire of the fifty? I will not destroy it for link of ten. If there he that? I will not destroy it for his koften. If there he that? Now If there he twenty? The singer said. I will not destroy it for twenty a sake.

titio begoes of ally to a stuckle the belt of his dagger.

And he said. Oh, let not me found be angry, and I will speak but this once. Pe adventing there shall be ten found to ere? And he said. "I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

over possibilit and day or full to the ground of NIPLE with eyes and for signs continues to cross humself and pray.]

Brother Wolf thou art a syater, is I also and a samer. With their, having so many substitution that is without single

[13 PO buties his face in his hands. From a distance comes the chiming of beds.]

JUNIPER It is the beds, Patien!

[LA FO, with a sob, reaches cut his hand to FBANCIS]

I a when I carrie here. I was afraid.

But FRANCIS, a rapt liberiese, listens and does not answer. The bells say everything]

CURTAIN.

RIDERS TO THE SEA

BY J. M. SYNGE



CHARACTERS

Macera, an old a nau
Baltier, her son
Calmeen her danghter
Nora, a younger daughter
Men an Woma

RIDERS TO THE SEA

Se Si la land note est i Ireland

Cottage between, eith note of their spining which and heards standing by the wall, etc. CATBLEVS, a girl of the at the nety, himster be ending only, and pats it to ear in the potential by the tree their wipes her hands and hearist to spin at the which NAA, a young girl puts her head in at the door.

S let at a law conce | WI to is she?

be sleeping, if she's able.

[NORA omes in softly and there a bundle from under her shaid.

you have?

Shirt and a plan stocking were get off a drewned note in Donegal.

ment, and leans out to listen

Were to first and it. Meladistric er sence time berself will be downlook agree the se

would be go tre length of that way to the for north?

NORA. The young prost says he's known the like of it.

'If it's Muchael's they are 'says he won can fell herself.

Le's got a clean born', he the grace of God, and of they re

not his let no one six a word about them, for she li be getting her death " sixs he crying with and langening."

The der which Notes last of sed is the a open by a gust of wind.

would be stop Bartley going it's day with the brosses to the Galway fair?

NORA I won't stop lame says be "but let you not be afread. Herself does be saving prayers half through the night and the Almights God won't leave her destinte says be, " with no son living."

CVIHILLY Is the ser had by the write ricks Nora"

NORY Middling and God below is There's expression rearry in the west, and its worse it If be getting when the tide's turned to the west. She gets rer to the faille with the bondle's Shell I epost now?

Leftre weld door journay to the tible! It was left times well be and the two of is covery.

most on the bod. So I be consummed in that

the tarf loft, the way she won't kniw of them at all a din tybe when the title tires she libergue, down to see world be be floating from the east.

They put the ladder remost the qubb of the chimney extenses ques up a ten steps and holes the bounds in the furtibility seeks comes from the muce room.

MAURYX looking up at exthress and speaking querubusly). Isnot it turf enough you have for this it your develope?

Space [throwing down the turt], and Burtley will want to when the tide turns if he goes to Connemara

[NORN picks up the turn and puts it round the pet-oren

MACRYA [satting dearn on a stool at the fire]. He won to go this day with the wind rising from the south and west. The wint go this day for the county priest will step him surely.

Not A. Hell not stop, an. Mother, and I heard Famon Simon and Stephen Places, and Colum Shown saving he would go.

MAURYA. Where is he itself?

Noney. He went down to see wind there be an ther boilt sailing in the week. Ind. In that had a set wind be long till le's here in w. for the tide's turning at the green head, and the locker's tacking from the east.

CATHLETS. I hear some one passing the big stones

hurry.

nature [comes in and to dear and the rome Speaking on thy and quietly]. Where is the bit of new rope Cathleen, were bought in Connemara?

cathless coming develope to vent to him. Nota it's coming to the white bear is. I hung it up this morning, for the pig with the black feet wis eating it.

NOBA [giving him a r pr] Is that it, Bartley?

MATINA You'd design to leave that tops Buths, is ging by the horse britist lakes the rope of the work be wanted to this place. I'm telling you, if Michael is walked up to marrow marriage or the rext merning, or any near the make his by the grace of God.

Latter the way I can arbed which the nate and I have go now quarkly. This is the one boat going for two weeks or beyond t, and the far will be a good fair for borses. I he ard them saying below.

the body is washed up and trends no min in it to make the cottin, and I after giving a big price for the file t white boards you d find in Concentrate

"She locks r mol at the heards

LALLITY How we did to be washed up and we live looking each day for a new days and a string wood blowing a whole back from the west and south?

MILES If the translated, that wood is rush given set and there was a standplaganest the moon and it rish, in the might. If it was a hundred horses or in the cold horses, you had uself what is the price of a thousand horses, you had uself what is the price of a thousand horses, and somewhere there is no someonly?

BUREATY — through to hadre, to CATA DAN DALLAND LAND AND THE sharp aren't purpose to the start of the purpose of the sell had a will be a back feet of there is a good price going.

for a pig?

HABITIA I CATILLES. It the west wind lolds with the list build in monitors of the monitors of Noral get up word en up for another cock for the help. It's hard set well be from the day with no one of the creation to work.

MAURIA It's Fard sea well or large the devicence drowned with the rest. Wear way will I live and tergrawith me a 11 an old wind looking for the grave?

> cent, and puls is a center one or the same flannel.

NORCE [lo king cut | Sees passing the green had a diletting full her sails.

BARTITY getting his per mone to occide the larve felt and loor to getting his per all see me eming remain two days of a three days, or more on fear days if the wind shad

MVEX forming record the tree and putting the short reche healt Isration and and multiplan was then word for an old went took to be felling here from the sea?

ters as I who would I to the old women who thing and she saying it over?

I show the first traction is quickly in the down on the first one of the gree percent of the line. The first at

God spine as and well of or an annual Hesgare now,

and when the block to left is a filter III have to so left in a in the world

cylinters. Whe wouldn't complete a course desired and he looking round in the disc. Is a first round to a section of a section of the base we hout corresponding to our with an unlinks would be different and a first wird in his rese?

MA MAX takes up the targe and become raking the fire aimlessly with act leaking round

NORX (furning terarts for You're taking (wa 1) turf from the cuke.

Note were after frighting his bit of brend.

(She comes over to the pre

Now And its destroyed to done going till dack right i d he uter eat, guidhi gis tec the sia went up

troved helt by sup v. There's no setse left on an passe in a horse where an ild woman was be talking to over

ME 1888 Strays herself a har street

a cleffe, to MANTAY. Let you seed and now to the spread well and give less ters and to pass a fourth second terms and the dark word will be backer, and you can say God speed you. The way hell be case in less toud.

MAURYA toku i the breat! Will I be eet us so to is bunself?

MALIES If you give a queamalies starting up and all go. It school set I is to walk.



RIDERS TO THE SEA

Normal in maybe shell ship on the hig stones.

NORA. What stick?

EXTRIBING The St. & Michael Langle ton. Corner da

MAVIAN fallows a stack xous got her. In the be world the old people dobe leaving the go often them for the r sous and children but us this place it is the yours are do be leaving things below I for them that do be old.

Sho gas out sleady Notes gues over to the ladder

Stars that sorry, God I-lp Fer you wouldn't know the thingshe'd do

SCIAN Is she gote murd by the bash?

down quekly, for the Lord knews with a shall be out of a ngam.

post not be done for the form the left! The soring post not be done passing to notice and we might produce and speak to him below if it's Michael's tory are sorely

they were found?

with a state of the state of the caucht the lody and the passes the black date of the parth."

Krafe Norm the strings per hed with the salt water a little sa black knot on a your wouldn't be sen a little salt.

NORA [queon her a L. ii] I ve lead tell a westelling way to Donegal.

A SELECTION OF ONE-ACT PLAYS

to the said of your set off walking from the rocks beyond, it will be a vital a vital day you do not be need to be said of you set off walking from the rocks beyond, it will be a vital day your dile in the needs

floating?

A next and a streking. They look at them cagerly,

extincts for two terms. The Lord space us, Nera' test the queet find thing to say if its his they are surely?

NOW I light his source of the Look the way we can per the one flamed on the other. She looks through some of thes leanging a face come. It's not with them, Cathlee and where will it be?

respectively. In this a barrier put it on him in the normal transfer own share was heavy with the salt in a Protest time order). It can substitute a sleeve was of the sine staff to each the recognization that the down brings to the normal the recognization that the final []. It's the same that N is but it is a sale as a trace great rolls of it the stage with a real roll in the stage of the

striction for the strict hind and counted to strict range of the Nethada, Cathleen, its Multacle tool on a lass and and series will be self-say when she had to start, it I had become the seat."

Note: The the second one of the third pair I knotted, and I put up three-second they are I dropped four of their

it [crying out]. Ah, North islet it a bitter thing to the & bon illeding that was to the for north, and no me to be a hun but the black has that do be fixing on the sea?

N by [stronging hers it tent i and and throung out her arms one the clothes]. And is it the pitful thing when there is nothing left of a min who was a great rower and tisher but a bit of an old shirt and a plan stacking?

Note: There a little sound on the putl

op to the door.

Maybe it's easier she il be ifter giving her blessing to Bartle, and we won't let on we we heard invihing the time he's on the sea.

NORA [helping CATRLE > to close the bundle]. We'll put them here in the corner

They put them into a hole in the channely corner extincted goes but to the spinning wheel

NACE Will she seem wis creeg I was?

light'll not be on you.

[NOTA S Is dean of the elimotey comes, with her back to the dome. Machan comes in very slowly, without booking at the garls and gives over to her stool at the effect side at the fire. The cloth with the broad is still in her hand. The garls link at each other and now points to the bundle of broad.

give him his bit of bread? " You didn't .

NAUKYA begins to been softly retroat turning round (ATREFEN Did you see a riding down?)

[MAURIA goes on keening.

extructs of little inepatential, a cool forgive you, isn't it a better thing to mise your year a ditell what you seen than to be make glamentation for a thing that's done? This you see Bartley, I in saving to you?

MAUSAN with a weak ronce. My feirt's broken from this day.

CATHELEX as before. Did you see buildey?

MAUSAA I seen the tearfullest thing

vou, he's riding the mare row over the green head, and the grey pony behind him.

MANAYA (starts so that her shoul tills back from her head and shous her white tessed had. With a frightened roce, The grey poor behard had

extractes (coming to the fire). What is it als you at all?

MACKAN speaking very starty. I we so in the fearfullest to against person has seen since the day. Bride Dara seen the diad min with the child in his arms.

CATHLEEN and NORA. Uah.

They crouch down in treat of the old a man at the fire.

SOLA Tell us what it is you see

MALIGEN. I wert down to the spring will seed I stood than saying a prayer to makely. Their hardest came doing.

and he rid got the red man with the grey party behind him she puts up her hands as it to have concething from her eyes. The Sin of God space us, Norse.

CATHLE N. What is it you seen?

MAI RYA. I seen Michael biniself

CSI OF X speaking scittly! You did not, Mother It wesn't Michael you seen, for his bedy is after hereg found in the no onth and he's got a clean burial, by the grace of God.

by a differ degland galloping. Buttle, can effect on the ted in ite and I tried to say. God speed you," but something cloked the words in my throat. He went by quekly ind. The blessing of tool or you, says Ic, and I could say to othing. I beked up then, and I cay go at the grey proximal differences was Machael upon it with fine clothes on hum, and new shoes on his feet.

the destroyed, surely

NORY D is take young prost say the Almighty God west leave for destitute with no sone liverg?

of him knows of the sea. Bartley will be lest now, and let you call in Famon and make me a good cellin out of the white hoards, for I won't live after them. I've had a rusba d and a husband's fither ind's x sons in this house—sex fine mea, though it was a bird barth I had with every one of them, and they coming to the world and some of their were found and some of them were not found, but they're hope how the let of them. There were stephen and

Stawn were lost in the great of the discount of the law of Gregory of the Gallet Mental and a find up the two of the group over the and a lost did to

She pauses to a noment. It is start as if they he are some their the right the door that so half open behind them.

Sold in a whisp r D. L. via Leo. 1 st. Caldeen't Ind. von Lear a ne se in the acre, east?

ing out by the seashore

was She mas and his father, indicating anything). There is the adult aget and rate staken sogewas seen of them when the sin went up. The was Patch, ifter was drowned eat of a curriagh that was to ned over. I was sitting fore with Bartley, and he a bally lying on my two knees and I seen two women, and three when and from women coming in, and they crossing themselves and not saying a word. I locked out then, and there were men coming after them, and to be hading a thought the half of a red sail, and water dripping out of it in was a dividir. Note and leaving a track to the door.

[She punses again with her hand stretched out the arts the deer ift opens softly and old nomine be pre-to-come in, or some themselves on the threshold and bucking down or front of the stage with red petrocal over their leads

or Michael, or whit is it it di

· CATHLEAN Michael is after being found in the far north, and when he is found there how could be be there in this place?

MAURYA. There does be a power of young men floating round in the sea, and what way would they know if it was Michael they had, or another man like him, for when a man is time days in the sea, and the wind blowing, it's bard set has own mother would be to say what man was in it

after sending us a bit of his clothes from the far north

[She reaches out and hands MAURYA the clothes that belonged to MICHAEL MAURYA stands up slowly and takes them in her hands. NORA looks out.

nona They're carrying a thing among them, and there's water dripping out of it and leaving a track by the big stones.

[n]. Is it Bartley it is?

ONE OF THE WOMEN. It is, surely, God rest his soul

Two younger women come in and pud out the to le Then men carry in the body of BARTIEY, fail in a plank, with a bit of a sail over it, and lay it in the table.

CATHLEEN [to the women as they are doing so] With a way was he drowned?

one of the women. The grey poly knocked him over into the sea, and he was washed out where there is a great surf on the white rocks.

[MAIRY has gone over and knelt down at the head of the table. The women are keening softly 6-1898 B.T.

and suaying, themselves with a slow movement CATHLEEN and NORA kneel at the other end of the table. The men kneel near the door.

MACRYA [raising her head and speaking as if she did not see the people around her]. They're all gine now, and there isn't anything more the sea can do to me . . . I'll have no call now to be up crying and praying when the wind breaks from the seath, and you can hear the surf is in the east, and the surf is in the west, making a great stir with the two moses, and they be thing one on the other. I'll have to call now to be going down and getting Hidy Water in the dara tights after Samlan, and I won't care what way the sea is when the other women will be keening. [To somy] Give me the Holy Water, Noral there's a small sup at B on the dresser.

and sprinkles the Holy Hater ever him! It isn't that I haven't prayed for you, Burtley, to the Almighty God. It isn't that I haven't said prayers in the dark right till you wouldn't know what I'd be saying that it's a great rest I'll have now, and it's time, sorthy. It's a great rest I'll have row, and great sheping in the long rights after Samhada, if it's only a lat of wet floor we do lave to cat, and maybe a fill that would be stored.

She kneels down again, crossing herself, and say may prayer, under her breath

would have a ceffin when the sun rises. We have fire white beards herself bought, Ged help her, thinking Michael

RIDERS TO THE SEA

would be found, and I have a new cake you can eat while you'll be working.

THE OLD MAN [looking at the boards] Are there nails with them?

CATRLEEN There are not Colum we didn't think of the nails.

ANOTHER MAN It's a great wonder she wouldn't think of the nails, and all the coffirs she's seen made already.

CATRILEN It's getting old she is, and broken

[MAURYA stands up again very slowly, and spreads out the pieces of Michael's clothes beside the body, sprinkling them with the last of the Holy Water.

casy, but the day Michael was diswared you could lear her crying out from this to the spring well. It's fonder she was of Michael, and would anyone have thought that?

catheren slowly and clearly] An old woman will be seen tired with anything she will do, and isn't it nine days herself as after erving a dikeening, and miking great sorrow in the house?

table and logs her hands together on Barrier's feet]. They re all t gether this time, and the end is come. May the Almights God have mercy on Barriey's soul, and on Michael's soul, and on the souls of Sheamus and Pitch, and Stephen and Shewn [bending her head] and may He have

mercy on my soul, Nora, and on the soul of every one is left living in the world.

[She pauses, and the keen rises a little more loudly from the a men, then sinks away

MAURYA [continuing] Michael has a clean burial in the far north, by the grace of the Almighty God Bartley will have a fine coffin out of the white boards, and a deep grave surely. What more can we want than that? No man at all can be living for ever, and we must be satisfied.

[She kneels down again, and the curtain falls slowly

A ROOM IN THE TOWER BY HUGH STEWART

CHARACTERS

IN ORDER OF THEIR APPRARANCE

MRS TYLNEY
LADY JANE GREY.
MRS. ELLEN.
MARY TUDOR.

A ROOM IN THE TOWER

Scene - The curtain rises slowly on a sombre prison room in a house on Tower Green, 1551

A high window at the back overlooks the site of the scaffold t, a door, and R, a door leading to an adjoining room. An oak table, writing japer, and books, etc. Plain oak chairs. We discover a grey haired waiting-woman sitting by the table. She has a needle and thread in her hand and a silk garment on her lap, but she is not sewing, only looking straight before her, quite still. A young girl's voice startles her from her reverse.

VOICE [off]. Tylney!

TYLNEY. Madam.

voice. Is it time, Tylney?

TYLNEY [aggreered] You've not been sleeping

[JANE USEY, a prisoner in the Tower suith her husband, as indicate dispers, both under sentence of death, appears in the doorway, n. She is slight and small and her hands are constantly moving in quick nervous gestures. Her face is rather pale and drawn. Rither emotional, she is always simple and sincere.

JANE I can't sleep. It's so cold in there I have tried, but it's useless... useless

JANF I haven't slept for it seems years

TYLNEY Have you looked in the mirror? Have you seen those dark circles under your eyes?

Marrors don't tell the truth, they only show us masks. But what does it matter how I look? Few people will ever see me again. What time is it?

THENEY It's still early, madam

JANE. Whenever I sleep, I dream

TYLNEY. Of what, madam?

are killing Guildford. I stand at the window and watch. It's horrible because I'm not with him. I can't move!

TYLNEY It is only a dream

take [by the window] He locks up to me standing here, and when he sees me, he tries to smile so bravely. Then he takes off his ruff, and kneels down

TYLNEY [leading her away] Madam dear, you must put these thoughts from your mind

night I dreamt I saw my father's head on a pike. It was lifted up and waved at me through that dreadful window. His mouth was open and the blood streamed down the staff.

TYLNEY Your mird is distorted with all this trouble.

JANE Why have they put me into this room? When they erected the scaffold the last time, the carpenters' hammer hit the nails into my brain. It was maddening, unceasing . knock . knock . knock . knock . la there my hope, Tylney?

TYLNEY. Of course there is, the Queen is very merciful and you are her cousin. Your youth alone . . .

JANE Youth [Laughs] You can speak about youth to me! In July I entered this palace as Queen; I was its mistress, the mistress of all England. And new ... what am I?

TYLNIY We must forget the past now.

JANE It's so d'fficult to ferget, what is there to do here except to remember? [With a great effort] Tell me do they live their new Queen? There is some trouble, isn't there?

TYPNEY It will prove serious, I'm afraid. She is so beadstrong. . . .

JANE [culting her short] What is it?

TYLNEY Well, it is feared that risings will break out throughout the country talks she will be ruled in time

JANB. Ruled?

TYINEY The people feel strengly against her proposed marriage.

JANE. It won't be my ccusin who will give in

the Spanish marriage.

sacrifice everything our whole life's happiness, everything a woman treasures most, for what? For the country, for the sake of the people. What do they give up for their country? What are they walling, themselves, to sacrifice? [By the window] Oh, Tylrey look! How beautiful it is, how beautiful those trees are below with the sun glimmering through the leaves. Like try green lamps. aren't they?

TYLNEY Are they, madam? Those trees are very very old.

JANE I like them better from up here, you can't see 'their tortured, twisted roots

Triver [brightly] Shall I cut you a branch or two of leaves to remove It would cheer the place up. I'll try to get you some flowers too would you like that?

JANE I'm serry, what did you say?

TYINIY Would you like me to bring you some flowers, anadam?

JANE. Oh, please.

THERE'S What flowers would you like?

nave such a quiet garder at home. Lavender bedges and resemble. Arbeites leaded with red and vellow reses. I used to tak the tight, sweet smelling bads and put them may har. There is a little pool I sat beside to watch my goldfish, they were so pretty—they used to mibble the crumbs from my finger-tips. I remember stealing there on warm evenings to listen to the nightingale. There are no nighting desidered, no staging birds. Lonly the creak of the riven, at I they forbode evil.

very much longer.

TANE [sl aly] Not very much longer!

* TYLNEY I mean, you may .

foots.eps will echo on these stars then someone will open the door and ask me of I am ready [Her hands creep to her throat] "I am quite ready, my Lords" They will lead me down the cound and and round and round the starcase out into the air, and the light...everybody

will gaze at me, perhaps some of them will feel a little sorry. . . .

TYLNEY. Tell me more about your garden

JANE. My garden?

THENEY Yes, your girden at home

JANE Home? When my father told me that Edward had dod, that I was Queen of England, I was frightened then. Terribly frightened. I believe I fainted.

TYLNEY. Poor dear.

that that they only use me as a rung in the hidder. [Breaking off] On, but what does it matter? What does not be not be anything matter any more? You don't know what my life has been, Tyliny My books were my only solace, my only friends. . . .

TYPNEY But, n adam, you are still very young JANH. What do you mean?

TYLNEY. They key the Queen bas a forgiving nature

young, do I?

TYUNEY You are tired new. If you could only sleep

aga no I only want to to to the ham to feel his arms round me, to be sure, to be sure that he wanted me. I must beg her, in place her to let me see him. Perhaps she will understand, and have compassion on us. O God, if she spares us... we may be free to-morrow, in a few hours. Guildford and I we will go away into the country and forget, and begin life again, together. I think he loves me

enough for that [She mores from the window.] Oh, Tylney, I don't understand. How strange a place the world is. I, who have never purposely hurt anyone in my life!

TYDNEY You must put your trust in the Queen, alle understands.

JANE. What?

TYPEY Your position, maden. How you have been tosed. How blandless you are

And I less to be blanced than Guildford, or Northumberland, or my father—or the Archbishop? [A silence] Listen, . . Listen!

TYLNEY. Madain?

JANE. Did you hear?

TYPES What is it, madam?

JANE I thought I heard footsteps.

TYLNEY [Instending] I hear nothing

JANE Someone is coming.

the Queen has arrived? And yet I told her .

[The door to opens quickly and MRS Elden, a second attendant to JANE, comes in, closing it behind her. She is younger than MRS TYINEY and obviously excited.

received at Traitor's Gate!

TYLNEY. Where is she?

St. Thomas's Tower

[A rell of muffled drums is heard in the distance, and a herald of trumpets exists crosses to the window.

She will be on the Green at any moment

JANE. Please, you will both stay with me? Do.'t leave me alone.

TYLNEY. No, no.

TANK. This nieurs everything in the world, or .

TYINEY [interrupting] Quickly, madam, there's your hair to be done.

JANE. Yes . . . my hair.

[They both exit R BLANN remains at the unidow and keeps them acquainted through the open door with what is going on below

expect she is passing under the gateway by the Hall Tower Yes. I was right here are her gentlemen, madam, they are walk no by the row of beeches next to the wall which doy desoil her apartments. Now she has just entered through the arch leaning on my I and a arm. He is telling her a joke, it seems, they are laughing a great deal. She is in fine humour, madam, God be praised, the Queen has a sour tamper at times. I've heard. The gentlemen are waiting for her—she is joining them now, and investigate other of the grass, towards the Lieutenant's house. Oh, graezous! What high shoes she's wearing. She nearly fell then, if it hadn't been for my Lord's arm. [She turns

round | My heart's beating so I can hardly stand up myself: Are you ready, madam?

[JANE enters, wearing a cap over her hair. She is still very pale, but she carries herself proudly.

JANE I have decided to meet the Queen alone

BLLEN Very well, madam You won't need me, then?

JANE [smiling] I won't need either of you Return when the Queen has left.

ELLEN. Very well, madam.

She kisser JANE'S hand and exits door up L. JANE. Tylney.

TYPNEY Coming, mading Here is your dramond pendant pendant. Let me put it on for you.

JANE Do I will feel Guildford is closer to me. He gave it to me.

TYPNIS It's very pretty [She puts it on JANE]

JANI Your fingers are trembling Tyliney, lock at me. . . Tell me, why tears?

TYDNEY You're so wonderful, my luly.

JANE. Am I?

TYLNEY. So calm.

While you were arranging my hair I was praying, and God has heard me, and comforted me, that's all. Our fate is in His haids, I can't struggle against it indeed, I must not. You must go new

TYINEY I ssing her hand] God bless you, madam!

A ROOM IN THE TOWER

JANE. God bless you!

[TYINEY CIRS 1 JANE stands motionless Voices are heard outside the door, L.

MARY [without] Leave us, gentlemen. We shall not be long here.

The dist is opened for the QUEEN, and she stands for a mement on the threshold. Her lips are thin and distincturined, but her eyes are not unkind and easily light up with enthusiasm, or unger.

Cousin Jane?

JANE. I am June Grey.
MAIA [atter a painter] You have charged

[MARY advances, exceptly because of her high heels. The door is closed.

[Considering her] The daughter of my Duke of Suffolk . . . I had not thought of my cousin like this Quite beautiful too! [She laughts] It sistrange, our family has rarely been for ed for good books before. You may sit Which relative is it who has been so generous? Not your father, surely?

JANE You are pleased to jest, matin

MALLY. Tash! No doubt those charms are responsible for your fame. We can see our Lords have acted wisely, what hope have I against such a creatur? Men are so susceptible to fine features.

MARY Tree was laid waste for Helen
JANE Have you no feeling?

A SELECTION OF ONE-ACT PLAYS

MARY Come, madain, I'm sorry to have to see you in such a place as this. You have been moved from the King's House?

st will be soon now?

MARY I knew nothing about it

JANE This window directly overlooks the place Is that so that I can . prepare myself?

MARY [frozens] I shall see that you are removed within a few days. Is that your wish?

JANE. It is my wish.

Were you happy in Leicestershire?

patient and gentle. He made life seem so much more to me.

MARY. Your tutor?

JANE. Yes, madam.

MARY. We have heard of your great learning, Jane.

JANE. My father gave great care to my education

MARY Like my own, I think that is all I have to thank him for. He was very proud of my ach evenients. You speak in Latin, and Greek?

JANE. Oh, yes, I love them dearly

MARY [indicating the table]. What are these papers here?

JANE Some Hebrew I have been studying

MARY Hebrew too! [Examining the papers] Do you know the tongue?

JANE I wish I knew it better

MARY I see you write in Arabic.

JANE. A little, madam.

Mary M rether was a more teater, a Late Wier, I was meed repaid a test to gue to the commission as a set form Landers. I can be the King now how great he was a She super. He case repented, child?

JANE. Have I sinned, madam?

MARY. Why are you here?

IAM THERE I OF BOAR A BIRD IT

Mb t for answer and a brof to ac-

deness for the contract of the state of the contract of the co

MARY. I can believe you.

ANC A that I could a k from last

MARY. What is that?

1986 We hashand a cover I think that is also

MAIO. A wealth staff is alle of sacrines and for such the stand for the Trules tradified. Fulley?

JANG [simpla] Mere than anyone in the world

MACS. They say I should wed as English Lord at I I say I will not. We shall see! There is not one I could care for I kn within, too well. They are priverse, pighaded fools! Yet you say you still live this this name. The trajfor who assurped our throne and set aside our Divice Right, as something of less unportance than his own pride.

JANE. That fatal pride.

MANY It is fatal to appose God's will people have discovered that and many more will discover it is the fiture. There are that is which moist be accountly-lad and which I

JANE. I am not very strong

MMA Has dard to fatedly, ver 2

JANE. I was afraid, perhaps.

guilty? Answer me!

JANE. Oh, madam . . .

MARY. Answer me!

JANE. I am guilty.

MAIN 120 V kiews who sometither new ?

ANT Whit has your to the

MARY. Do you care?

JANE. He is dead?

tootpad.

JANE. What have you done?

with the many sargety. Here survive special limes of the sample of the sargety best of a bond erong.

in You have good in 121 "

year the was shown to da processed he has see a man on the rick. I would not star it vishes a cresh i worm under foot.

out Your nor vivil be reverded. Her rine tillicing I Midem there is semitting.

MARY. Well?

TANK If you thank me held. I su only rade so his water a ced mg goodness. It have me to beper to heleve

. LOWER TOWER

that you will extend your compassion to to the Arch bishop Coa mer (The corresponds) to the Arch corresponds of the Arch corresponds of the Arch part to space the old note.

MARY. I must have no heart.

live d wn me how good at

MAN tourisd? You not a first per one to six it it to me,

JASE. The Primate is old. . .

MAN. He is a fractic like the rest of veg?

118 Direct When he conserted to my succession it was only after a hag period in which he opposed it. He has not most time a day bed allogated to the Criwn. Oh, cannot don't debugge he was worn divided to the formal little has don't be found for he had a little don't be don't be them kill had.

MAY The, mot with primy consent

added to a me, I amplore you

way I shall see no hist comes to a sthat as all I can promise now.

But you are the Sovereign.

teen a ran averything world be so care. I should contrained a distribute leglar digle cus. I should throw the issues as a look of type ray. I should then the fit is accordant to God.

MANE (Soffly) A or people belove in your mane. Do the " Do you thank to your JANE. Yes

MACE But the defit had read for ret, of werein, and God known it all been hard. I hast define it rest detone in a detone furbound and control with beinds of steel fee the greatest countries in the world. Thus, a cy messon and I have as with to de with the retrief a his fixed. To also be with to de with the retrief a his fixed. To also be a with to de with the retrief a his fixed. To also

is I ought to die arless I see Lan agrin

MARY. Your husband?

there so life after death. Tooling, no fterwirds.

I condidn't bear it! It's of that I have less that
I will be with I it heaven

MAIN My porrelilly you need to be alrud

JAM I'm not read afruid only ameta, e

MARY I read you to go to be condeal.

JANE [in a whisper]. Life!

MARY. I pardon you, Jane.

JANK. Into life! Both of us!

MANA Lamest shell from a core

JANE. Both of us?

you full of sunshine and per boutful things and children.

the raises the hem of the QUINS short to her Lys | My I upposess. I can't express it. I feel at a so great it won't let me speak.

you to kneel.

every prayer of our lives.

MAKE Remember me, when yet be happy, with you dank. Always,

when I had need all your pare. It as and a set of a set of a set of a set of a set I wish I were to set I with all, but I most go onwards. She rises I but comes from energity g. Ever thing. I must have so I have been son by Creat.

JANE. Must you . . . must you go?

MARY [nods | Duby compels for at a is been like that always. Farewell

She merer a straight turns for a memorit at the door Be wis The Cott Stept] Your real my Lond, please I tire so quickly now.

the box etsix 1880 r ma in her hours right of quality for several non-dex. When she rises she ralles nor so to the handon. The roll of frames is heard a fain. 181818 comes of a Stiches just heard some tilifal nessure. But he does not have all terst, how to impart to her mustress.

TYLNEY. Yes, madam.

So less people have be a kill a roy at a Sur fales for hands. We do not look at he had been seen to be still tears in your eyes.

TAINING THE A TREATMENT OF THE QUEST TASK YOR STORY OF THE ATTENTION OF TH

TYUNEY Ob, madam, very greatly

TANK. Then why are there tears?

THANK She has pardonel you I know

believe it. I in not sure that I is not a leep really. It may only be a dream.

TYPEY Perhaps you are askep-

don't wake her [Hath her arms around TYINEY'S mich]. Oh Tylney, we are free free don't con understand? I won't be here any more. I don't like this come, it's full of ghosts.

TYLNEY. Madain, listen . . .

days more. How can I I ve t li then? Guddford, Guddford, I wish I were with you now. Don't you realise what this means? It means I be together in the means we can wilk in der the sky and hear the bold again at means you

TYPEY {augusted Of made don't' I have so others I must fell ver at once the terms story

are you saying?

TYPES Of a valuar lady the less has just be a brought.

JANE [in sudden terror] My God! What is it? What

TYPES Your father I is one ed the conspictors?

JANE. My father . . .

Wyatt have occupied Rochester with their men. They have issued a preclaim it in a agreest the Queen's marring.

tour' Its a fall a toper. The conduct' I won't believe it!

Trinks from the are to a to a but I found them the messegger masked

JANE. He was lying!

TYLNEY. I fear . . .

JANE [almost raceless] God would t do the to me?

pointing Sa Thomas The same testing against in act pointing Sa Thomas The same be will minch as Lordon. It's revolution!

JANE. Revolution!

DINEY We Change ou so II be fold new

take there race treatment Yes yes, that was right But went tive I done? What have I done to deserve this? Does she know all dishe bury?

MINIX Makes Let lord - Not yet

has realed her total. The roll of draws is heard again very wintly tyrkey burits into tears

Nonderful to be true. I was been to suffer, but this is hurting so.

[The draws are heard more boundy. She suddenly puts her arms or and TYLNEX'S shoulders.

Oh, to, Tyliev you mustn't ery, for my sake Look! Such a beautful sunset there must

be a God to create that Dear nelds to terror for me raw, I know I fe won't end who the grave, in darkness. There is a great glory of the belief of the clouds. I feel no pain that Spirit will spin gregoring into the Elternal Log t, where I hope the mercy it took will receive it.

CURTAIN

THE BOY COMES HOME

A COMEDY IN ONE ACT

By A. A. Mirks



CHAIACILRS

UN TOTALLS
AUST FAMILY
LIMITE
MACE
Mass History

THE BOY COMES HOME

Road.

TIME: The day after the War.

In room in 1801 1886 8 house a turn shed to heavy nut I between style this pertender increased from the perhaps soluter and a re-respectable even those the others, trem the heavy table in the middle of it to the leavy engravings in the walls. There are two does to it. The one at the tast opens into the half, the one at the side rate the dinner room.

Apparently he hads a they there for he returns to the morning rame to he about home ter a moment and then rings the half of the set of who and he control has treakfast. He pels up the paper and sets in a nearly armehan meter too the him a pleasant look of well built person of two dy-three with an act of decrease about hem waster the part ur-maid, come on.

MAIN Dalves 2, Mater (Edip.)

Mary.

hour ago.

me a couple of eggs or sentility. At leaster not ter

SET I'r sac I dagt krow wlat Mrs. Hgg swd. say?

THIRD [40 that q Whees Mrs. Hoggies"

MARY Trecome. And she's not used to being parabout like this

PHILIP 10 on think shell say something?

what to Arrway I denot suppose it was shock me. One 2018 used to it in the Army [He smales pleasantly at least

MV. Well, I'll do what I can sir. But breakfast at each harp is the masters and pist as it used to be before you went away to the war.

sally things. Dead deag toom up acw. [More certify) I'we ears and a theory is here bring that their sallens brings that the sallens brings that their sallens brings that their sallens brings the sallens brings that the sallens brings the sallens brings that the sallens brings the

[He turns away.

sate I do (3.1) with this Higgs will so

1 Shopes at sho mater of transmissing to come as a had be reted to at 1 orthogodal being being to the colo

Did you sleep well?

are you? [He kisser her.

be take life that I be started by the early in the Army.

they got out of the Army.

THEY DON'T A CALL I WE I WALL A LIBER OF

a bed. I ve said to moself. Wort. A time will come.
Sindan of That doesn't really give a habit a chance.

stesso afrad that a reason was bed would scep you awar ifter all these years as the total

And one gots leave of one some in the second section of the section of the section of the second section of the section of the

with us, Philip.

stand, didn't you, desc?

winted go to fir the little transon had. But I think your little darnes but it. After all dear you've lived with a lor some you and he is your guardian.

THILD I know You're been a dailing to be always.

And I'vel But wash and all Uncle James and I

I will a Of course he is a little difficult to get on with him more used to him. But I'm sure he really is very ford of you, Philip.

PHIME. H'm! I siways used to be frightened of him. I suppose he square the same. He seemed just the same last might—and he will be be transfer to glit o'cle k been make gipts of money. I same of

or about the absurd to of the exession fast in You entries a thing the Army words

PHILIP. It certainly gets it.

follows done has but helper the poor new in the trenches.

Enter MARY

MARY Mr. Harman wishes to speak to von a kan Socile des at the Praya cole as to say, There you are to (MILLY getting up) Yes, [Lee one 7 milety] I the k Pd better just see what she was to Pool

Lett (MANY his tubes and his at hir nestress] At acceptence.

[Exit many.

Mrs. Higgins will say—

really find out for once.

go ---

nustr't You see she really wints to see no

EMILY. You?

PRITIES Yes I endered brookled five a miles of

FMH 4 Pr lp' Ms peor 3 x' Wlx d du t von tell re' And I darway I could have get a fer ver a libergh I on a know what Mrs. Hagues =

Mics meety material is located and cle, and mics meets to the and appressive comes to



MRS HEATS 'mendently a You settler me main's
AND neremble You at -1 thele if you-perhaps—

works breaklist Dala t May tell you?

it is the property of the desired and always will be until I get further orders.

eggs, and if there's a bam-

The share the last for the part hour orders. In this case from me.

to a liw to a very first tribule and the first cise to a liw to a very limit to divide the first cise.

Figure 1. The quark's society has must as an amplitude term by 1 fact you deprobably prefer it if my sunt gave how set eq. and there are one deposit one of We are early transportfact. The extra factor as he takes at a transfer per and the que how. What do you pay her?

. MIL . Mainth, T. P. etv five pour de-

Problem in thing activity of the least of the five [Problem to a solution of the latest to the solution of the latest to the latest lat

Mis mens "12 about Wats I all

go at once.

picture surprised to some I therefore a did

wis across Intsould a bit a overkfast I don't

Printer part ing back the elected. Then be take six the "Two extract leafer". And Mary can bring the tain up at one and I illust germ a that "Trining away.] Thanks very much.

THIP corporate I that Also ever says? It isn't much to worry about.

twite I'm p has could visit I shall have been terrified.

out there.

EMILY. What job?

about that ham.

He saides at her and quality of the dinner room. ACNO 1800 & wanders root the remiporation, a ten lang as tely is is her helist when she is interrupted by the entrins of CNO 1800 ISMES. JAMES is not a beginnan, nor an impressive one or has black morning coat and his thin straighy locard now gone parely, does not hade a chem of any areat power, but he has a severity which jetsses for strength with the weak.

JAMES. Philip down yet?

TMHY H spiritary I or on t

JAMES [Looking at his neatch] Ten o'clock Snapping at shut and putting it book Ten o'clock I say ten o'clock. Emily.

TMHY Yes, dear, I haved you

JAMES Lou don't say arythrig?

FMH'S raquely, I expect he's tired after that long war.

supporche learnt protectibity in the Army?

I m to say that he d forgetten at

JAMES Then the sooner he learns it again the better, I pirticularly stry I may from the office to-day in order to tak thougs over with him and [leoking at his match] here's ten of the pass ten and no sign of him. I'm practically throwing away a day.

EMBY. What are you going to talk to han about?

but the process of th

July Arrive pealist going to talk at ever with him, July, chare year just going to tell him that he most come?

differ. 2 Naturally we shall talk it over first, and sernitually to the fide in within a wishes.

FMHY I suppose he can hardly help tamse f, pour boy

TYMES Not until he's twenty five, anyhow. When he's twenty five he can have his own money and do what he likes with it.

unity toundly] But I think you capt to consult him a little, dear. After al. he has been fighting for us

of soly sent mert that there's been much too much of. I object to a strongly I don't want to best, but I think I may claim to have I ment stare. I gave up my acphew to my country, and I are sufficed from the short ge of potatees to an extent that you probably data't realize. It had, if a had a tobern for your fortunate discovery about that time that you don't really like potatoes. I don't know how we should have carried on. And I so I think I we talk you before the extention for your fortuned to me a singularly stap depicte of legislation, but I paid at. And I don't go be stong about how much I paid.

vears out there have made han more of a non-head sait seem sonallow like a box who can be tild what to do. I moure they've tracht line smething.

thing about or bombs and or which end a resolver goes it, and how to fine to us. But I don't see that that sort of the gold his his to do do upon the most suitable career for a yang man in after war candit ons.

TMLY Well, I can only say you'll first him different types. I didn't notice any particular difference last night.

query I think you'll find him rather more. I can't que think of the word but Mrs. Higher could tell con what I mean.

off r v a he may but I don't see how he proposes to do a so long as I hold the purse-strings [Looking at his

natch, Perlogs was better tell has that I cannot wait any longer.

Det talks the uple it to PHILLP

he goes to the office. Will you be long, dear?

PARTITE of m the during room] Is he in a hurry?

JAMES [shortly]. Yes.

AMILY He says be is rather, dear

HILLI Couldn't be come and talk in here? It wouldn't interfere with my breakfast

JAMES. No.

EMILY He says he derather you came to him, darling PHILIP [resigned]. Oh, well.

TMBY to AMES. He ll be here directly, dear. Just sit down in front of the fre and make yourself comfortable with the paper. He wen't keep you long.

[She arranges him.

JAMES [taking the paper] The morning is not the time to take oneself confertable. It is a most dangerous little I rearly found myself dropping off in front of the fire just now. I don't like this larging about, wasting the day.

[He opens the paper.

you could be were up so late last right listering to Philip's stories.

hurried y] Yes yes the begins a yawn and stifles it hurried y] Yes mustn't neglect your duties. Emily 1 ve no do libt you have plenty to do

be hard on the boy.

npon that.

what I meant [She gers out]

nod He wakes up with a start turns over the paper and nods again. So a he is breathing deeply with closed eyes.

but I was a bit late for breakfast. He takes out his pipe.]

Are we going to talk business or what?

just two hours.

rupper [pleasanthy] All right, Unle James Call it two hours late. Or twenty-two hours early for to-morrow's breakfast, if you like.

[He sits down in a chair on the opposite side of the table from his uncle, and lights his pipe

JAMES. You smoke now?

PHILIP [staggered] I what?

sames [nodding at his pipe] You smike?

PHILIP Good heavens' what do you think we did in France?

JAMES Before you start smoking all over the house. I should have thought you would have asked your aunt's permission.

PLILIP looks at him in amazement, and then goes to the door.

Pettite [colling] Aunt Emily! Aunt Lady!

Do years ad new sincking in here?

A Secoulty from upstairs.) Of course not, darling that it is leaves, as he returns to his chair, Of course not darling the puts back his pipe in his mouth

you remain my house I expect not only purctuanty, but also civility and respect. I wal not have impertunence

PHILIE intimpressed | Web, that's whit I want to talk to you roout. Unce James | About staying in your house, I mean.

JAMES I don't know what you do mean.

thought permips I'd better take rooms semewhere. You could give me an allowance until I came into my money. Or I suppose you could give me the money now if you really liked. I'do it quite know how father left it to me.

JAMES a loly! You come into your mores when you are twenty-five. Your father very wisely felt if it to trust a large sum to a mere boy of twenty-one was simply putting temptation in his way. Whether I have the power or not to after his dispositions. I certainly don't propose to do so

PRILIP If it comes to that, I am twenty-five.

JAMES Is deed? I lad an impression that that event took place in about two years' time. When did you become twenty-five, may I ask?

PHILIP [quietly] It was on the Sonne We were attacking the next day and my company was in support We were a a so-called tre on the cd e of a wood a during to it is place to be and we got hell. The company commander sent lack to ask if we could neve The CO and, 'Certainly and a group We have on derry nothing you know just hinging on and waiting for the next day. Of course, the Locke knew all about that. He had if on us nicely [Still Poor eld Blist he was me of the best our congression of the best out the best of the best out the best ou him, poor dev l' Trataett no rice maind et the compaty I sent a runner block to a leaf I cold move. Well, I'd bad a bit of a scout or a view and feature to fittench five bondred vards to the right. Not wint hould call a treach of course, but compared to that wood, well at was absolutely Hyde Park I described the pestion and iskel if I could go there. My name as year care lack. I waited in hour and sent another man. He west west too. Well, I wasn't going to send a third. It was touder. So I led to dee de. We'd lost about half the trip by by this time you see Well, there were three things I could do hing on, move to this other trench, against orders or go back myself and explain the situation I moved. And then I went back to the CO and told I m I d moved And then I went back to the company again | [Quietly] That was who. I became twenty five or thirty-five or ferty-five

[He coughs awkieardly] No doubt points like that fre-

quently crop up in the trenches. I am glid that you did well out there, and I'm sare your C tenes would speak kindly of you, but when it comes to choosing a career for you now that you have left the Army, my advice is not alonget er to be dispoid. Your tather cy deathy thought it, or he would not have eithested you to my care.

For till. My tither didn't feresce this wir

Ad yet verify have for that you make too much of this war. Ad yet verify have seem to thank you've come back from Prance to teach us our basiness. You'll find that it is you who'll have to learn, not we.

THERE I'm quite prepared to learn in fact I want to.

Times I'ven it. Then we can consider that set led

going to learn.

to the value to my business. You li start at the lot ora, of corresponditions, but it will be a splitted dopping for you

me? The jam business.

in that?

to appeal to me.

but ered it would appeal to you very consil rably

HILLE I m afra d I can't see the batter for the jam,

were glad enough to get it out there. I've to d ubt.

now. No it's re-good. Uncle James you must think of something else.

JAMES [with a sneer] Perhaps you're thought of something else?

JAMES Vell I had some area of being an architect— JAMES Ven propose to start learing to be an irelatect at twenty-three?

PHUIP [smaling] Well, I could 't stirt before, could 1?

JAMES Exactly And now ser'll find it's ion lat-

purity. Is to Aren't there plant to be any more mich trets, or dictors, or sole to s, or harristers? Because we've all lost four years of our fives, are all the professions going to die out?

JAMES At I how old do you suppose ou'll be before you're earning morey as an archite to

Pair in The usual tree, whatever that may be MII in four years belond, so is every bidy else.

names. Well, I think its I have you begin to earn a living at once.

that you can trust in the a beyond short before a larger than the respect to the front have made no difference at all?

expected at to take the firm of an in reused read he a to bey orders and recognize authority

house a row Per, sps I had better tell y u once and for all

that I refuse to go mio the turn p and vegetable marrow business.

JAMES [thumping the table angray] And perhaps I'd better tell y u, s.r., once and for all, that I don't propose to allow rudeness from an impertment young pappy

Brighter once. He was covered with red, hid a very red face, about twenty needls and a cell blue eye. He told the how argry he was for about five months while I stock to attent a. I'm arraid via arrait rearly so impresse.

nately I have other means of impressing viu in a power of the purse goes a larg way in this world. I propose to use it.

smit at?

JAM. s [pleas intly] I tholk y u'll field it very awkward paning themalitratify]. Yes

[With an amused laugh James settles duen to his paper as if the interesen were over.

nutting to houself, I suppose I shall have to think of another argument.

[He takes out a revolver from his pocket and fondles it affectionately,

amazed) What on earth are you doing?

Fillule Souven't from From & Do y a know, Uncle James, that this revelver has killed about twenty Germans?

sames [shortly] Oht Well, den't go playing about a that he ears will be killing Final sharen before you know where you are.

and points it at his uncle] It's a nice little weap n

time grown out of morose, tricks like that in the Army. You ought to know better than to point an unliaded revolver standards. That's the way a order to always happen

thing. Not when you've been on a revolver course and those all aloud it. Bead a, it is louded

Put it devo at once, sie, then it is true it away from how and c amines it carelessly? Whit's the matter with sin? Baye you provided sudd n'y?

Prince [mild]. I thought you'd be interested in it. It sales is highly of Germania.

First Well it wish to short one more, and the

Junes, that there we don't a limited thou and pople in 12 22 and who own revolves who are quite usu tomed to their and who have notody to graduce in now?

JAMES No er, it certainly doesn't.

I trace You know, one gits so used to pitting at people. It's rather difficult to realize suddenly that one oughtn't to.

all this tomfoolery is, if it has one. But you understand

that I expect you to come to the office with me to-morrow at nine o'clock. Kindly see that you're punctual.

[He turns to go away.

PARTIE [soutly] Uncle James

JAMES were his shealler! I have no more-

attent on when you take to as there' [same at, see stand to attent on when you take to as there' [sames instinctionly turns round and strong himself.] That's better you can set down if you like.

(He mote as sames to his chair with the revolver.

JAMES [games merrously to his chair] What does the bluff mean?

Pritter It . . It blaff, it a quite serous [Panting the ret lear at his made, Prist down.

JAMIA [setting down) Threats, cle?

PHILIP. Persussion.

night its by ferce? Goed heavers with this is just the very thing that we were fighting to put down.

a humorest.

of us who staved at home --

runner. Yes, never mind about the excess profits now, I can tell you quite well what we found to for. We used force to put down force. That's what I'm doing now. You were going to use force—the force of money. To make me do what you wanted. Now I'm using force to stip it.

[He levels the revolver again,

JAMES. You're you're going to shoot your o'd uncle?

A SELECTION OF ONE-ACT PLAYS

FIGURE Why not? I've shot lots of old uncles-

JAMES Last those were Germans! It's different shooteig Germans. You're in Finaland new You constitute have a crime on your ensemble like that

year of war one less quite the same ideas about the succept of human life. How could say

the same ideas, I fancy.

Paul P Yes but revolvers often good accd mally You said so yoursed. It is is good to be the press are left Call to you see at another papers? "The decreased's eigher, who was obviously upon

from the front and threat a a detenceles non-with a revolver? Is that the sort of fair play that teach you in the Army?

that that you wait until the offer's de has got jut as many guess as you before you attack? You're really cather acky Strictly speaking I coght to have thrown half a discribinable at you hast [Ta'r q or ort of his poket] As it happens, I've only got one.

Put the total cone platting due the recover and taking it in his hands. You had to note right hand so take a care to keep to lever down. Then you take the proof the finger so at 1 but perhaps this doesn't interest year?

sir. Good heavens' anything might happen.

runter putting it down and taking up the repolice arms. Does it ever as it to via Uncle James, that there are about three null in people in England who know all about bounds and how to throw them, and

ne er drean of letter these the galacter to ne

He had, it out to him suldenly,

might go off at any moment

quite useless there a to d tonater sternly] Now, then, let's talk business.

times. What do sort want ne to do?

has be ver your head a deavery. I ment that you should be reasonable.

TAMES And of I not use, the ill shoot me !

expect we should go through this lettle some again to morrow. You haven't enjoyed it have you? Well there is lots more of it to come. We'll rehearse it every day. One day, if you go on being unreasonable, the thing will go off. Of course, you think that I shouldn't have the pluck to fire. But you can't be quite certain. It is a hendred to one that I should I might. Fear at a horrible thing. Elderly men die of it sometimes.

JAMES Pooh! I'm not to be bluffed like that

sort. I made a mistisse "finning out ally, I shall like to do it straight off, after an inter-two

of terror) Philip! Mess! What are very time?

PLICE [preling him up by the stron, and helping him into the chair, Good with that the way to take 1'h get them for you. Make your life care of also in to a clothe finally leader to back. Here's the paper.

[He gives less on le the paper, and q is out ato the hall

1988 Supers his erex with a start and looks raind him in a becaule of early He rules his head, takes not his will head loves at it, and the estates round the room arive. The door tremter the fungreem opens, and PRIMIP comes in with a pie e of teat in his hand.

James? You wanted to see me, Unck

that's all right. What have you been done?

m his mouth | Lather lete, I in afra ?

PRICE Anything the matter? You don't look your usual bright self.

the fire Most a soul than for me to have din Most unusual.

arly Of course, if you're not electrony voice not Lip your-self. This kincaves I in out of it, and my con master again.

Sit down, Phop the free ales the chair by the free

runn taking a charing the tark. You have that aade. I shall be all time there

Patter the armehod and styly the tacle limiter. I would be dropping off again. He tweels an averly.

PHILIP. Righto.

the puts his kind in his packet. INCLE JAMES shoers and I as at him in herr to P. ILIP troops out his pack and a siddly great frelit comes into JAMES'S face.

JAMES I appose was stoked a literal transce?

PROFIT Rather' Nothing elected. It's allowed in here?

his pape] West row, Th. Ip, what are you going to do, now you've left the Army?

revolver.

revolver, cb?

JAMES. No . Oh to the nost certaily not. I should say the I can the why you should want it at all [With an initiary laught] I tere in Eighind row. No need for revolvers here—ch?

PHH .P [staring at him] Well, o. I tope .ct.

rext? We cust hid a profession for you

thought about it much. I suppose so I haven't really

Trade Surprised Architect?

JAMES there has held and a inders what made him think of architect.

JAMES. Or anything like that.

PHILIP. It's a bit late, isn't it?

JAMES Well, if you're four yours belond to is everybody else [He teels rainery that he has heard thus argument before.]

and the source of the first field I mind and the invest Anothin you like explored commusembre I absolutely refuge to went uniforming to

FULL The jun lesmes? Well I doct knew Yor wouldn't wast not to silute year the tournings?

JAMES. My dear boy, no!

entiring. All right. Ill try it if son like. I don't know of I shall be any good, white do you do?

tivels. It's your experience in a major; and for -

Little Oh, I and that all right [Stretching howelf between stall United James, do you readed that I'm never going to salete again, or wear and form of get well really wet. I never or examine min's best or stand to a only not a line spoke to or ohe loss more things?

And be toof all. In never going to be frightened again. Have you ever known what it is to be attaid—really afra d?

JAMES [embarrassed]. I-er-w a- [He coughs

Pathar No. y a couldn't-net ready afraid of death. I menn Well, that's over now. Gold I'd I could spend the rest of my life in the British Museum and Le happy. . . .

office. I expect you want a holiday firs, though

Being a Lordon's holday. Buying a revening paper wearing a waster it again -run and after a base anytorg—it's all holiday.

I ll attroduce you to Mr. Bamford

PHILIP. Right. Who's he?

fellow. Hell by a lighted to hear that were are consigned to the firm.

in case he isn't.

together to the door! He had a geleant to the He, had had a good joke the ends a geleant come. He, had He, he, he!

the last and lasts raid the some in a limit to the last and lasts raid the some in a limit to the last last be soft a rain, is nasict it? He will never be quite certi-

CURTAIN

THE RISING OF THE MOON

BY LADY GREGORY

CHARACITES

POLICENAN N POLICENAN B A RAGGED MAN

THE RISING OF THE MOON

Scene Side of a quay in a scaport town Some posts and chains A large barrel. Enter three Policemen. Moonlight.

[SIRGEANT, who is older than the others, crosses the stage to R, and looks down steps. The others put down a pastepot and unroll a bundle of placard.

up a notice [He points to barrel

POLICEMAN x. Better ask him [Calls to SERGEANT.]
Will this be a good place for a placard? [No answer.

POLICEMAN B Will we put up a notice here on the barrel?

[No onswer.

SERGEANT There's a flight of steps here that leads to the water. This is a place that should be minded well. If he got down here, his friends might have a boat to meet him; they might send it in here from outside.

a notice up?

SPROPANT It might; you can put it there.

[They poste the notice up,

SERGEANT [reading it]. Dark hair—dark eyes, smooth face, height five feet five—there's not much to take hold of in that—it's a pity I had no chance of seeing him before he broke out of gool. They say he's a wender, that it's he makes

ad the plans for the whole wran zation. There sa't another man in Ireland would have broken gaol the way he dal. He must have some friends among the gaolers.

POLICEMAN B A hundred pounds is little enough for the Government to offer for him. You may be sure any man in the force that takes him will get promotion.

wonder at all if he came this way. He might cone slopping along there points to side of quay], and his friends might be watting for him there [points down steps], and once he got away it's little chance we'd have of finding him, it's maybe under a load of kelp he'd be in a fishing boat, and not one to help a married nan that warts it to the reward.

on our heads for it from the people, and maybe from our own relations

Haven't we the whole country depending on us to keep law and order. It's those that are down would be up and those that are up would be down. It wasn't for us. Well, burry on, you have plenty of other places to placard yet and come back here then to me. You can take the lantern. Don't be too long now. It's very loresome here with nothing but the moon.

Government should have brought more police into the town, with him in good, and at assize time too. Well good luck to your watch.

[They go out.

SERGEANT [walks up and down once or twice and looks at placard]. A hundred pounds and promot on sure. There

must be a great dich of spechage and numbered pounds. It's a puty some home to be not to be the letter of that

(A RAG AND AND AND FOR at let a litries to slip past.
SERGEANT suddenly turns.

MINISTER THE TANK THE

to sea series of these to the sub-halfs of table to the sales.

[His goes ore.]

go on there.

MAN Oh, very well. It's a hard thing to be par. All the world's against the poor!

SERGEANT. Who are you?

MAN. You'd be as wise as myself if I told you, but I don't mord. I'm one James Walsh, a balled singer

SPECTANT Junery Will he I don't know that name

Were you ever a Era, s, S 12 ant?

Statist What brought you here?

make a few sl. 1, s bece or there. It is the one rate with the judges I came.

go faither, by you'll wilk out of this

MAN I will, I will I ll at go on where I was going.

[Goes towards steps.

s notion (me back from those steps to one list leave to pass down them to night

MAS. I'll just sit on the top of the steps till I see will some sa lor buy a ballad off me that would give me my supper.

They do be late going back to the ship. It's often I saw them in Cork carried down the quay in a hand-cart

SERGEANT May on, I tell you I won't have anyone lingering about the quay to night

May Well, I'll a It's the poor have the hard life! Maybe voiss if night I e one, Serge int. Here's a good sheet now. Turns one rer.] content and a Pape-that's not much. The Prefer and the toolf-you wouldn't Tke that Johnny Hart that's a lovely song.

SERGEANT. Move on.

MAN. The was a rath fineness daughter lived near the fown of Ross;

She courted a Highland solder, his name was Johnny Hart; Says the mother to her daughter, 'I'll go distracted mad If you marry that Highland solder dressed up in Highland pland.'

SERGEANT. Stop that noise.

[MAN raps up his lattads and shuffles towards the steps.

SERGIANT Where are you going?

MAN Size, you told me to be going, and I am going.

SERGEANT Don't be a fool. I didn't tell you to go that
way I told you to go back to the town.

MAN Back to the town, is it?

spreading the shoulder and shoring him before him]. Here, I'll show you the way. Be off with you. What are you stopping for?

MAN (who has been keeping his eye on the notice, points to it]. I think I know what you're wating for, Seigeaut.

stream What's that to you?

knew I in we. Ill begoing. [He shuffles en.

sort is led You know hom? Come back here. What

me killed? Concluck s.t. Sergent? Do you want to have

steel the Why do you say that?

has if the reached was ten track as much. [Goes en off stage to L.). Not if t was ten times as much.

book [Inn s hear lact] What sort is he? Where did you see him?

I tell you you wouldn't like to be looking at him. You'd be afraid to be as the one place with him. There is 't a we upon he doesn't know the use of, and as to strength, has muscles are as hard as that board.

[Slaps barrel.

singlest. Is he as had as that?

MAN. He is then.

SERGIANT Do you tell me so?

MAN. There was a poor man in our place, a sergeant from Ballyy ug in .-It was with a lump of stone he d d it.

SETCEANT I never heard of that,

that happens gets into the papers. And there was a policeman in plain clothes, too . . It is in Limerick he was. . . . It was after the time of the attack on the police barrick at Kilmallock . . Moonlight . just like this . . . waters de.

. . Nothing was known for certain

SELGEANT Do viu say so? It's a touble country to belong to.

looking out that way, thaking you saw his coming up this a le of the quay [points], and he might be coming up this other side [points], as I held be on you have you knew where you were.

put here to stop a man like that

MAN. But if you'd like me to stop with you, I c uld be looking down this side. I could be atting up here on this barrel.

MAN I'd know han a mile off, Sergerat

Separant But you wealdn't want to share the result?

NAS. Is it a poor man like ment at his to be going the roots and singing in fairs to have the numerous langular that he took a reward? But you do 't want men I i he safer in the town.

s distant. Well you can stop

we be now, you're not trid out, Size out walking up and down the way you are.

S REFANT If I'm tired I'm, used to ?

MAN. You might have hard wink before you to gelt yet. Take it easy while you can. There's planty of rom up here on the barrel, and you see further when you're higher up.

SERGEANT Maybe so [Gets up I e ide him on barrel, facing right. They sit back to back, holing inflirent ways.] You made me feel a bit queer with the way you talked.

MAN Give me a mitch, Sergeant [He gives it and MAN lights pape] takes a draw yourself? It it quiet you Wait now till I give you a light, but you needn't turn round. Don't take your eve off the quay for the life of you

both smole, Indeed it's a land thing to be in the force, cut at right and no thinks for it, for all the danger we're in. And it stitute we get but abuse from the people, and no choice but to clay our orders, and never asked when a man is sent into long it if you are a name with a tamily

MAN [sings];

'As through the lads I walk dato you the hills and shamrock plain,

I stood awhile where not ire smales to view the rocks and streams,

On a matron fair I fixed my eves beneath a fertile vale. As she sing her song it was on the wrong of poor old Grannaile."

SICEANT Stop that that's riserg to be ang gon these times

heart up It sinks when I think of his. To the k of us two sites, here as he cropping up the qual, maybe, to get to us.

SERGEANT Are you keeping a good look in?

min' But with I saw a min in trouble, I never could help trong to get lime out of it. What's the to 1) d something het me?

[Rube las heart,

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MAN. I know that, I know that, Sergeant, but life is precious.

S E dANT Well, you can sing if it gives you mere courage.

MAN [sings]:

Her held was hare, her hands and feet with non-bands were bound,

Her pensive strain and plantive wail mangles with the evening gale,

And the sea, she sarg with incurreful air, I am old. Granuatle.

SERVENNY That's retat "Her gown slie wore was state? with gore." That's it you missed that

[Repeats lone] But to think of a man like you knowing a song like that,

and might not have any wish for.

used to be sating up on a wall, the way you are sitting up on this barrel now, and the other lads beside you, and you singing Granuade?...

SERGEANT. I did then.

MAN. And the Shan Bhean Bhocht? . . .

SEROBANT. I did then.

MAN And the Green on the Cope?

SINCEANT That was one of them.

used to be sitting on the wall, when he was young, and singing those same songs. . . . It's a queer world . . . coming....It's only a dog.

of the beys you used to be singing with that time you will be arresting to day or to morrow, and sending into the dock....

seliceant. That's true indeed.

way I dominible one night, after you had been singing if the other boys had told you some plan they lad, some plus to free the country, you might have posted with them are in making it is you in ght be in trouble low

great spirit in those days.

mother knows when she sees her child creeping on the flor where while he pren to it before it has gove through its life, or who will be who in the end.

though Wat now tell think it cat. If it wish there there is I have and for a wide and family, and for it is partigle of need the time I did at might be maked new would be a terlious 2 gred and hading in the dark, and it might be his that a dirt in the dark and that get out if good would be sitter up where I am on this barrel. And at might be moselt would be compact up trying to make my example to be it as fait might to I might be health and not of would be breaking at, and moself was like to a grown to put a build in his land or to take it. I top of a true the way for said he did not that it is lad to the lad of the fait.

MAN from s off barrel and testens, looking out over water]. . It's nothing, Sergeant.

SERVEANT. I thought it might be a bout. I had a not on there might be friends of his coming about the quays with a boat.

MAN Sorgeand, I am if thought was with the people too were, and not with the law you were when you were a young man.

SECENT Well, I I was I clish then, that time's gone

MAN. Maybe, Seigeant, it conces into your head sometimes, it spite of your felt and your turne, that it might have been as well for you to have fallowed Granaine.

STREETS It s to busin so of yours what I it k

MAN Maybe, Serg ant, you'll be on the side of the country yet.

Streams [nelseff lirrel] Dec't talk to me like that I have now distress and I know them [Looks round] That was a bout; I hear the oars.

, Goes to the steps and Loke d wa.

MAN [sings] :

O, then we have, Sown O Fairell.

Where the gate come is to be
In the old spot by the river

loght we have we to you and me.

MAN [sings louder]:

Whistle up the marching time, With your pike upon your shoulder. At the Rising of the Moon?

stout ext. If you don't stop that, I'll arrest you.

I whistle from below answers, repeating the air.

stands of That's a signal. [Stands between him and deps.] You must not pass this way . . Step farther back.

. . Who are you? You are no billad-singer

you. Your dat ask who I am, that placard will tell you. [Points to placard.

S. B. JEANT You are the min. I am looking for,

om There a tanded pounds on my haid There is a friend of man below in a beat. He knows a safe place to bring me to.

It's a pity. You develved me. You deceived me well

pounds on my head.

SPECIANT. It's a pity, it's a pity!

MAN. Will you let me pass, or must I make you let me? SPRCEANT. I am in the force. I will not let you pass.

MAN I thought to don't with my torque. [Puts hand in breast.] What is that?

loce of Potte MAN & outside. Here, this is where we left him.

SER I INT. It's my commides coming

MAN You won't betray me the friend of this used.

[Slips behind barrel.

Loter of POLICEMAN B. That was the last of the placards.

PELICEMAN x [as they come in] If le nickes livescape, it won't be unknown bell make it

[SELGUNT puls hat and wig b hind his lack.

PARCHMAN B Did anvoice come this way?

SELGEANT [after a paiese] Noon

POLICEMAN B. No one at all?

SERGEANT. No one at all.

POLICEMAN E. We had to sides to go look to the station, we can stop along with you

to do here.

watch with you.

st not type. I d score ha alone. What was not come the way and you making a lith at talk? It is better the place to be quiet,

remarks. Well well can carfel enauch a

[Hands it to him.

S. CANT I don't want to Pring to the ter-

entroped seal set additional for distinct of the control of the season o

talk.

Tolter that when I have to nate had been be



flashing it about into every dark, corner doing so] that it's the same as to go be de the fire at hime, and the bits of hogwind classing up now and again

[Flackes it acout, now on the barrel, now on SLRGEANT.

nnd your lantern! • The off, the two of you, yourselves

They go out was comes from behind barrel. He and see each stand looking at one another

stitust. What he you wating for?

wish to get my death of coll? [Seastant gives them.

and think you. You did me a good turn to-note, and I made to you. Make I'll be able to do as made for you want to such that up and the big fill own. We are we of this part the Reng [wares his hand and disappears] of the Moon.

planted | A handred pounds reward! A handred pounds!
Turns toward, and noted | I wender, now, am I as grate fool as I think I am?

CURTAIN

HEWERS OF COAL

By JUL CORRIE

CHARACTERS

Dick, a numer of middle age
Pittin, a b y of Ottern years
Puture, a pit handyman offty nears of age
Lov, a no exist middle age
Ison a giver of years of age

HEWERS OF COAL

Scene I meading underground It is a corrowly confined place about five feet six inches high, heren out of the solid rock. A narrow strip of coal can be seen along the whole length of the back wall. I comple of props are at the back, a jacket hanging to a nail in one

The only infrance is in the right espectator's wall. This is an opening about four first high, and three and a half first hide with a prop at each side of it and one across the top. Over this opening there hangs a coarse and derly cancas "screen"—one of the not reground precautions for a better air current. A few old hitch sleepers and pieces of prop he here and there, on which the men sit when they are taking their meat.

When the curtain rises were solven the centre eating bread and cheese from a 'piece-lin, and drinking from a tea-flask. At his side there is a larger can which holds water. At right (spectator's) milly sits, also at his need. They have been in the pit for three hours and their faces are tlack. If the have a mind their cents, as is the custom in the mine when men are having their need. Their safety lamps are beside them, but there should be a dim blue light alled for stage purposes.

BILLIE, with his mouth full, puts his 'proce-t n' toqu'her and closes it with a snap. He puts it in his pocket as much as to say. 'Well, that's that' does still taking his meal, looks round at BILLIE

DICK Finished with your meal already. Billie?

DICK You shouldn't cat so quick, hit, it isn't good for the stomach.

Bit if I've got a stomach that can digest hals. Peter's taking a long time to come in for los lam and egg nick. There's a smash-up of lutches down the slope Didn't you know that?

street. That's who the buildinge was stopped before stopping time?

back. Yes. Some smash, too. Peter Libe cursing, for he doesn't care about losing sweat, the lock.

(The fact that 13113) is a ben keeps him from expressing lens in to the full

you have with you?

Dick Yes [Smile 1] Want a bit?

side immediately Dick, still smiling, hands him a piece of the score Birth takes a large bite.

mittie Thanks, Dick a million!

He returns to his ormer scat emoging the scone to the full.

nick. You seem to be fend of scone, Billie?

ears It was a bad day for me when my mother died,
Dick [Sighs] She used to bake scenes every day

pick. Doesn't your a ster do any baking?

for powbring her face and waving her him. Pictures and disants, that sail started that k about. Mad to get a man. Dok and when he does get one shed poson him with transfer at the got a new name for her tow.

Billie?

By much near expert at it. The link of our large state much in works with empty to a

dancer?

[Panse] This score is just for I a boking board proud of your wife?

be perhaps. The never is a thought as kide a fellow, Is II. He poes home on pay doy with about ferty. I llangue, hards it over to the rossus like a fere of spetting that the Charellor of the Problequer hairs if would have to threw in the sprage of he had to feed as held the account water, and five killies is at it. How the half has non-ge to keep their half above water is a possessy to reconstruct they have the head to hade a disage, too

Hita decreat eyes [By gur ' I denses her

DICK. Is your fither keeping better i w?

other days he's all wrong. I don't think he il ever get right now

DICK. You've had a rotten time. Billie, between one-thing and another.

It helps to keep us go g. So I'll have to try aid keep my job, Dick.

the militally A pob! The whole wild seems to go round on a job. No job, no bread no bread, no laughter [S plus] It's a strange way of running a world, in my opinion.

[There is a statt pouss. Then we hear a peny neither; outside buttie toks at nick quite traggoodly.

piece o' my bread.

mes [lightly] He has pletty of oats Bill

breve and a drok of my tea [Peocy neights again] He and I are great pills, Inck. If ever I win a big coupen Unique by to buy him from the constaty and take him up to the green finds. [Phalingly, in a way] It was greedy of me eating all my bread and not thinking of Darmy, wasn't it?

[DIER holds out the last piece of scone he has left Diek. Take that out to bim, Bill e.

[milie mimed stely rises to get it

One [laking it]. Dick, you're Pabl. Here Nur ber [He goes towards the exit

a.r. It's beginning to sufficite in here

[While there is lifting the screen to hang it up the pony neighs again.

BULLE I'm com bg, Danny -I'm coming!

[BILLIE 9 es eff where 'wipes his brow with his fingers and throws the sweat off them. Then he takes a long breath or two of the air which seems to be coming in now. He closes his tim, and puts it and his tractash in his jacket pockets. Pitth enters. He is in his shirt sleeves, it the up and is wiping his treat with a ret and white spotted handkerchief. Diek is a nice as of his entrance but diesn't look at him it is, specific in intering and goes to his jacket, which is hanger too the prop. He is a non-his sleeves and speaks in in his direction.

Prince The thirgs that happen down the put would break the heart of a saint.

He takes his flish and tin from his packets

TICE [1 string up at him unpleasantly] What's t c matter with you?

steps? Four tutches brown away from that last rice and junited tremsely's right up to the roof. Where's that boy?

DICK. Writ dive want with him?

reting The gaffer's come grup to speak to him about it. He put a compling on twisted that caused the break-away. I wouldn't be surprised if he gets the sack-Robert's flaming about it.

cuping that caused the smash?

remen. I told him.

DEEK netting ar 114] * And how did you knew?

PE . Because it was the only was a could come off the sits at left to have his meal.

the that for the gaffer arm't ye? D' you think he loves you for it?

Peter. Who are you barking at?

I do not a few total the second of the secon

wouldn't be so domned kind.

And it very went my open a confre well suited a the jets
Get what I mean?

notes: Look here. Dick! If store's going to be new notes: the talk at no als I'm going to talk to the galler should. I'm not going to stand mealts from von

pick. If fully gets the a k been seen the you'll have to stand a damned sight more than ansults—I'll break your blasted neck.

THE RESERVE OF VERS, BUILDING

to I so his job it's the cally thing between his family and starvation. Why did you to I the gaffer he was to blanc?

fallen on me.

Yes and that would have been a hell of a tragedy, we all in't at? You with your extra shifts and your ham and egg-you selfish swine!

Print If a pain desn't look after himself in this pit nobody else will.

DICK Sciencelen. Is that your cutlook on Pfe?
PRIFR. It is:

depending on the hosp of semeone. What'll you do then?

that

been functioned to accept toward a for come

Dick. It I be a self of the newler Probability for help from you

ners trait borst Poter 1 s is a tage wild rens brad serie straige thigh happen it di

total 15 to our thing that'll rever upon

BI OF There He monodiately so fix and boks at

nure. Processing the small of him independence to keep to keep Makes a difference, Billie

for a places in kindly at Dick for a minural, then looks at BILLIE.

PUTER TRUITED INDIVOUSE the griff rout blove?

AUTH puzzlet No What heale wint with me?

DICK Yea're getting the hame of that smish

BHAIR, Me? How?

going over the brow until the came off and over the brow until the strendled.

BILLIE [to DICK] Does that mean I'll get the sack?

won't be the only one.

BILLIE. What d'you mean, Dick?

bick Never mind just now . Deesn't Joe know it setopping time?

there. He's not taking his food in here to-day.

DICK. Why not?

face this morning.

sure that he's all right.

BILLIE gies off, giving PI TER a nasty look as he goes.

DICK. Billie's fitter's ill-you know that?

PETER. Well?

Dick. They're just suraping through on Bille's ware

PUTER What has that to do with me?

buck Year can tell the guffer that you found a broken buk on the slope, and that it caused the smash?

the gather a he it would mean the sack for me

Dick. If Billie gets the sack because of this I'll-

[non enters. He is a full man wearing short legginos. He hangs his lamp on his belt.

repe Get your splicing tools and run it in before starting-

[PETI II immediately closes his tin, rises, and hurries off.

a minute.

[PETER goes off Bon takes a note book and pened from his picket and unites something down

non If it isn't one thing down here it's two. That's half an hour list this morning

THE Of course, a coal pit isn't like a biscuit works. Bub where everything gives like a song?

The Theres too much carcles-ness. And I'm going to the an example that morning. Where's that poly draver?

tick. He's it thing Joe Marshall to come in here for his meal.

nor Well, y a cin tell fim not t start work until I speak to him.

nick. Thicking if saking him, are ye?

for it. That smash was his fault and he'll have to pay

pick. Mistakes can hippen with all of as, Bob

TOR We can't sift rd them happening with us

the In perial Coal Company, Bob?

"Bon looks at DICK quickly

DOB What d'you mean?

the plural.

might be getting more frost or than is good for the hould.

BOB. Eh?

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here. We could be doing with a let more of it down

Seen a to me you're gettig a dammed a ght more than your share.

He goes to the entrance and lets the screen drep angrily.

this jut could be remedied as easily as that, Beb election

ton. What are ve driving at?

Fick. Have year got that fall cleared up in the nime air course yet?

aircourse?

DICK. I was , st trying to get informatica-

nob Well what II happe to me if it isn't cleared up tick. It isn't what II happen to you sat's what II happen to the let of us. Symmetriffy [There's to shortage of gas down here, remember

HOB with a sar astu sinde] Is that 50?

but no shortage o' gas.

thoughtfully I see! Dick, come into its effice at files by time. I want a serious risk with you

PETER returns corrying his splicing to Is in his hand peter. I'm ready, Robert.

B B Gas in the pages there? And a fall in the main

a reconts. And y and the the Gracian at anspecter to know

about it—el.?—It is a way of dealing with your kind, Dick Keep mind of that,

of its master ties emiles but it is a troubled smile. Billie enters

BHILL Am I to get the sack, Dick '

tick Leave that to me, full. Is Joe coming in?
utility Yes. But he's had his meal, Dick he took "
ut the coal-face.

tick. He has tover done that before

tone | Dick | Di

block If you get the seek to day Bulu, I'll bring this bloody pit cut on street. And the company would have something to say about that.

racking cough.

thek. That cough of cours is getting worse, Joe 200, straughing to breith.] That air down there is king me, Dok kaling me.

DICK. Why do you work in it?

knows It has not I re, and wen't give me another job . . . I wish to God I had mover married, Dick it has been hell ever since . being chained down here

DICK They know when they have a lover all right [JOE sits where fitter was silling]. Why didn't you take your breakfast with us?

JE guilling 1 took it early.

DICK. Why?

out to see if it would settle... And I can't get any wood to scene it (Hysterically) Dick! I mighting afraid to work in there. It hecome down some divisind crass me to pulp!

at sex in a possibility of the state goes to sex

ym're letting your nerves get the Letter of ve

on me and . . .

100 bunger You didn't bring a med with visit bearing?
10. No. Dick, I...I...

It a receive to come to tre pit with a tread when there's a wfe and kiddles to come for to treak bok at mirits [formitte]. Peter bit a bit for the identification, and didn't he?

ingue [astenaded] What, he do?

pus [m Hong his head to have in the past] You were out at the time and didn't bear him. Dancy has plenty of oats.

{Dick lifts v. tim's bread too takes the bread from it, and pushes it into bet a hard som shrinks from it.

JOB No. Peter would tell it all time.gl. the pit!

mick [torcing it into his hand]. Take it aid don't be a
bloody fool. I'll explain to Peter, and t'll be all right.

[JOE takes it, but reluctantly and ashamed.] If you don't want to take it here go into the coal face and eat it

[30E looks at DICK in a hipeless manner.

John Dick, I'm tired. I'm not fit enough new to be working here, but—there's nothing else for it. If that roof would come down and put an end to me Mary would get compensation, and her troubles would be all over

the coward's wave out. Go and est that bread at II do you a world of good. [sor rises and goes off shuly. If e hear him coughing when he has gone.] Joe's just about a goner, I think.

man. Peter II be mad when he fit ds his bread in ssing

He has enough ham and egg in him arryway to last him for the rest of the shift. If he hasn't it'll do him good to feel hungry for once. [PETER returns harrying and still cross

peter [entering]. It's little worder my meals never do me any good. I never get peace to sit down to them always semething genig wrong. [He sits in his previous position. He little his tim, getting a shock at the lightness of it. He locks suspiciously at pick. Then he opens the tim.] Here! What has happened to my bread?

THER [sarcastically] Oh, did they? Opened the lid. then shut it after them, eh?

otek Yes They're getting more human down here every day [PFTFR rises threateningly

PETER Where's my bread?

10-1873 B T.

DICK [to BILLIF] Doesn't believe a word I say nowadays. Billie.

PETER I want that bread back-see!

DICK Too late, Peter it's away ta-ta

PETER. Where is it?

that he didn't bring a slice with hem to the pit. So I thought you wouldn't mind hem having what you'left.

THER What' You gave my bread away to him! And what ain I going to do now!

DICK. I think you had a good tightener

[PETER litts his ton modify and taixes it above DICK

PETER I'll bring this down on your blasted head, you

[DICK protects himself mills jumps nonerr enters.

non. What's the matter here?

PETER Links at BOB pileously

refett [ultiming] Robert be stole the bread from viv

Bon [puzzled] Stole your bread

PETER. Stole it and gave it to Joe Marshall

Bon [to DEK] Is this true"

thought that Peter would be only too phased to do a good turn to a mate for once in his life

pries in Robert And here I am, left without a slice.

BOB Dick, pack up your tools and get up the p.t [To] BULLE And you do the same

the head off this greedy swine .

DICK angely divests himself of his jacket bob gets between him and PFIER PFIER slinks back to a corner.

non down a pit! You know what it means to strike a

DICK [making towards FITER, and trying to get past Bob] I don't care! Joe was hungry, and

There is heard a terrific roor, like thunder. Immediately the quarrel is forgotten. Like trapped animals they instinctively herd together and rush to the left wall busine rushes to the shelter of Dick. The noise gets louder and more terrible. There is a pause, then sor staggers in, tally, then craicly towards his mates.

tor. We're trapped -trapped (

The noise is new horrible, and the falling of debris is heard. A stone, accompanied by a cloud of dust, talls on the scene. A load crash is heard at the entrance.

(tradually the noise begins to jude, like thunder among the hitls. Then quietness falls, save for the echo of falling debris in the working around

| In h. q. es cantiously to the entrance He lifts the serien They all give a start, for the way out is blocked by fallen stone when turns and looks at his stricken mates.

DEK God! . We're entombed!

A SLOW CURTAIN

A SELECTION OF ONE ACT PLAYS

THE SECOND SCENE

Immediately after the close of the curtain, through the dark-

ANN a NICER This is the National Programme . . The deathroll in the Glend oning pit d saster has now reached fer y-two, two other bodies having been found this morrang. For the past five days the rescue parties have worked in relays, day and night. They are endeavouring now to reach the Hard Coal Heading, which, it is thought, a few of the men may have reached through old workings. Little hope, lowever, is being held of finding the men alive. Messages of sympathy have been received from His Mijesty the King, the Prime Minister. the Minister for Mines, and the Archbishop of Cravenbury. A relief fund has been opened for the bereaved relatives to relieve the destitution, and contributions will be gratefully received at the office of the Miners Frierition, or may be sent to the Provost of Glendinning. In the South Wiles coaffield another strike has broken out, the men claiming an increase of wages The strike is entirely unifficial and

. The last tese words tade out as the curtain quadu-

The scene is the old Hard Coal Healing. It is on a slope, rising from right to left. This can be done by using a sloped platform, a sloped frontpiece from about one for at right to over two first at left, with an irregular top edjoin to resemble coal. I black curtain can be lowered from the top at a corresponding angle.

There is a small opening at right, but it is only a hole big enough for a man to craul through. It is no outlet to the world, as the workings around are all closed. The first thing to strike the eye will be five chalked strokes on the back wall.

There is only one lamp alight hanging near DICK who sits in the centre rather like a Rodin scalpture. BOB is at tight on his knees, putting up a silent prayer. BILLIE lies osleep between Bon and DICK sow his to left of DICK, also askeep, and looking deathly pale. PFTER is at extreme left, looking hopelessly at the wall at left. They all wear their jackets, and it is easily seen that they are nearly done. It is the conrage of DICK that has saved them up till now, that and the water can which is close to DICK.

BOB [just a faint whisper] Amen'

There is a dead pause to a moment or two DOB looks at DICK pleadingly.

BOB Can I have a few drops o' water, Dak?

DICK struly lifts the can to his car and shakes it

DICK. It can only be a drop or two Bob

BOB. I know.

DICK. To-day'll finish it.

DICK hands the can over to Rob PETER looks on the scene with staring eyes. While BOB sips, PETER begins to crair! towards him DICK watches him closely. Ben hands the can back to DICK. PETER Can I wet not tongue, too, Dack?

[DICK looks at JOE.

Dick. I'm afraid we'll have to keep the rest for Joe. You've had your share to-day. Peter. I'm wormed about Joe, he looks done for.

Od s sake ' [pitconsty] Oh' . Just two drops Dick for food s sake ' [pick is sorry for him.

PECK. All right, but it must be your list absolutely PETER. I know.

[DICK gives Plyen the water-can, but holds on to it.

He pulls it away when he thinks plyen has taken eneagh plyen returns to his former position. There is a pause. Then box crawls to dick and takes hold of his hand.

have done for us. It was your pluck that got us here your hope that has kept us alive . . If it has failed . . . Oh!

blck It neight have been better if we had staved where we were—it would have been all over now.. But life is sweet. Still, we know each other better now—and that's comething.

n n. Yes, but it's a pity we don't knew more of the good thangs in life until it's too late.

[not returns to his fermer position. There is a pause.

DICK [quickly] Not a sound at ywhere!

DICK [quickly] Listen! [DICK, PETER, and BoB are all attention to listen. After a pause, hopelessly.] No!

BOD. No!

PRIER. No!

BOB Strange that the hitinger has passed away
DICK [with a funit smile] It was held she while it lasted
No craving for food now—just water

PETER [a sulden outburst, wildly] I'm burnag mode like a fire-roasting! [He makes a swiden attempt to get the water can - Dick gets hold of it - Bob is prepared to detend DICK - Madly.] Give the that water! Give the that water—or I'll kill ye!

[mas litts a stone from the flor and raises it above - his head

non. Touch that water, and it'll be your last.

temper [who is really master of the situation]. Bob! No

PETER Oh, this is onbearable—ur bearable! [Then in desperation he beats his hands against the wall.] Help! Help! Help!

DICK. Cut that out! D've wart to waken the kid"

PFTER sinks c. hausted non and Dick both l ok at the electing boy.

пов Hasn t le been plucks Dick?

DICK Plucky? By God, he bas!

PETER { rery slowly} Oh! this waiting—waiting on something that can never happen now waiting!

pick. Listen' [Again they are all attention. There is a slight pause.] No!

what has been happening? How many have lost their lives?. And they it be blaming me' [Hysterically] They'll be blaming me'

The main aircourse was never kept clear

DICK We were all to blame for semething If it wisn't greed and selfishness, it was fear aid cowardice Thinking only of ourselves, and the others could go to hell for non. And what has it been worth to-day?

BOB. If I live to come through this I'll be a different man, Dick.

DICK We'll all be different men, I think

There is a silence. Then son begins to rare in his delirium.

und' Three hundred quid'. She'll get three hundred quid'. Mary, tell the kaddies that you'll get three hundred quid.

[not laughts very weakly. The others look at him in suspense and fear.

Lon [in a whisper] He's started again.

DREK to BOB] Is he too weak now to go mad?

PETER [hysterically] Mad' Oh my God, we'd have to kill him!

that interable heart o' yours? In a short time we'll all be knocking at the door of Kingdom Come. Let's go with clean hands and hearts.

[PFTFR is ashamed]

a dead miner' Three hundred quid. Mary, and—a corpse

PETER. I can't stand this, I tell ye! I can't'

[Igain he heats his hands against the stone wall of his prix in. Then he gives it up in absolute despair. There is another silence billion begins to talk in his sleep, their and too look at him.

but it Mother! Mother! Dick says that I ve been brave. You always told me to play the man. Dick says I've been great. Danny was killed. my pons. We were great puls, mether.

DICK Plucky kal! [Softly] Sleep B.1e sleep

[A mience.

Total And Peter grudged me his bit o' bread . [PETER rises us it his conscience had stricken him.] And I was hingry. Oh, I was lungry.

There pate maly 1 dadn't grudge him my bread, Des. did 1?

because I didn't ask your permission. Forget about it jos. Three hundred quid!...

[some tries to sing a word or two of Love's Old Sweet Song, but he only gets a few notes out when he stops echausted. There is a pause.

the sky! To walk through the woods! . To climb the bills! To be down and drink the clear, cold water! [The mention of water makes peter use again and cast an enricus one on the water can like holds it tightly to himself.] Five dives in hell! And every day an eternity

to write to Elsie again [BoB gives him the book and pencil, Dick begins to write, after counting the chalk marks on the wall. Slowly as he writes] Friday the fifth day. Water now finished—keeping a drop for Joe — Billie sleeps—Joe very weak —Last lamp row burning . . Still—hoping . Don't worry —Good right, Elsie. —Kiss the kids for me — [Overcome] —Oh' merciful Christ!

This outburst brings both BoB and PTIER to attention, for it is the first.

go like that! Don't let us down new

Dick raises his head, and smiles

DICK. I'm serry. It was the thought of the kiddles

[He tears the leaf from the book, and puls it in his breast-packet. He gives non the book and pencil non-begins uniting his letter.

[JOF opens his eyes and stares blankly round the careers Gradually he realizes where he is

tot Inck can I have a drop o' water water?

DICK Sure, Joe [DICK goes to him with the can]

Have you had a good sleep?

ron. Yes . . . I don't know . . .

The tries to put his hand to his head but is too weak one holds the nater can to joe's his peter keeps backing at job in an attitude of fear one lets job have all the water save for a drop or two which he is keeping for bittle. He returns to his seat with the can job looks at peter.

JOE. Peter-I didn't eat your bread. [They are all surprised at this.] I didn't eat it . . . I put it in my box for the kids . . . and it was buried . . . buried in the fall. [DICK and BOB exchange glances. JOE tries to laugh, but only coughs.] Dick, I'm done for.

DICK. No fear, Joe. You'll live to sing a song yet on the Saturday night-eh?

JOE. Saturday-pay-day-bread-and margarine. Ha, ha!

PETER. I didn't grudge you my bread, Joe, I... didn't.

[PETER, to the surprise of DICK and BOB, feels JOE's hand.

PETER [softly]. Cold!

[He takes off his jacket and puts it over JOE. DICK nods his head to BOB in a well-pleased manner, There is a short pause, then PETER returns to his corner. DICK looks at the lamp.

bick. That lamp can't burn much longer . . . We should put it out and save it.

BOB. No! I couldn't face the dark!

PETER. You might not get it to light again!

DICK. Well, when it does go out, we'll know that the end has come.

[BILLIE raises his head, opening, and rubbing his eyes. He looks all round him, then sinks down again with a little ery of hopelessness.

you had been a man, Billie . . . That's the spirit, my lad.

You're made of the right stuff. I kept the last of the water for you, Billie. Have it now?

BILLIE. Yes. [He sits up and DICK lets him drain the can. The others hopelessly watch it go down.] Anybody been here, Dick?

DICK. Not yet, Bill, but they'll be here soon now.
BOB [to BILLIE]. How d'you feel, Billie?

BILLIE. Okay!

BOB. You're a great little fellow.

BILLIE. You won't give me the sack now, Bob?

[He smiles, having now no jear of the gaffer.

BOB. I'll never give any one the sack now, Billie—I'm through with gaffering. [BILLIE looks up at the lamp suddenly. All look.

BILLIE. That lamp's going down!

[It is flickering slightly, All stare at it tragically, There is a projound silence.

JOE [very quietly]. Three hundred quid. And I thought I was only worth a few shillings. Ha!

BILLIE [looking at JOE half in fear]. What's wrong with Joe, Dick?

DICK. Just dreaming, Billie.

BILLIE. But his eyes are open-look!

another little sing-song—eh! ... What'll we sing this time?
... Our favourite again ... One—two: [Sings.]

Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on the wing, Onward, the sailors cry, Carry the lad that's born to be king,

Over the sea to Skye.

[BILLIE joins JOE, then BOB, then PETER. It is a terrible struggle jbr them to sing, and the tune is just recognizable but no more. They are all affected by it, as they feel that it is the last song that will ever come from their lips.

[They are near the end of the verse when DICK stops suddenly and listens. The others do the same.

DICK. Listen [DICK lifts a piece of stone from the floor and taps with it steadily for a few moments on the rock bottom.] Listen! [They put their ears to the floor. Through the stillness we can hear a very faint tapping away somewhere in the distance. DICK rises first.] It's the rescue party—we're saved! We're saved. [They just look at each other in dumb amazement.

BILLIE. Mother! Mother!

[BOB, DICK, and PETER exchange glances. BILLIE, is puzzled.

DICK [to keep the truth from BILLIE]. We'll just let him sleep, Bob.

A SELECTION OF ONE-ACT PLAYS

BOB. All right.

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[There is a pause, then DICK removes his cap. BOD follows suit, then PETER. BILLIE watches them and does likewise. The lamp flickers more now and will soon be out. In the distance we can hear the tapping of the rescuers, still singing the Bong.

THE CURTAIN FALLS SLOWLY